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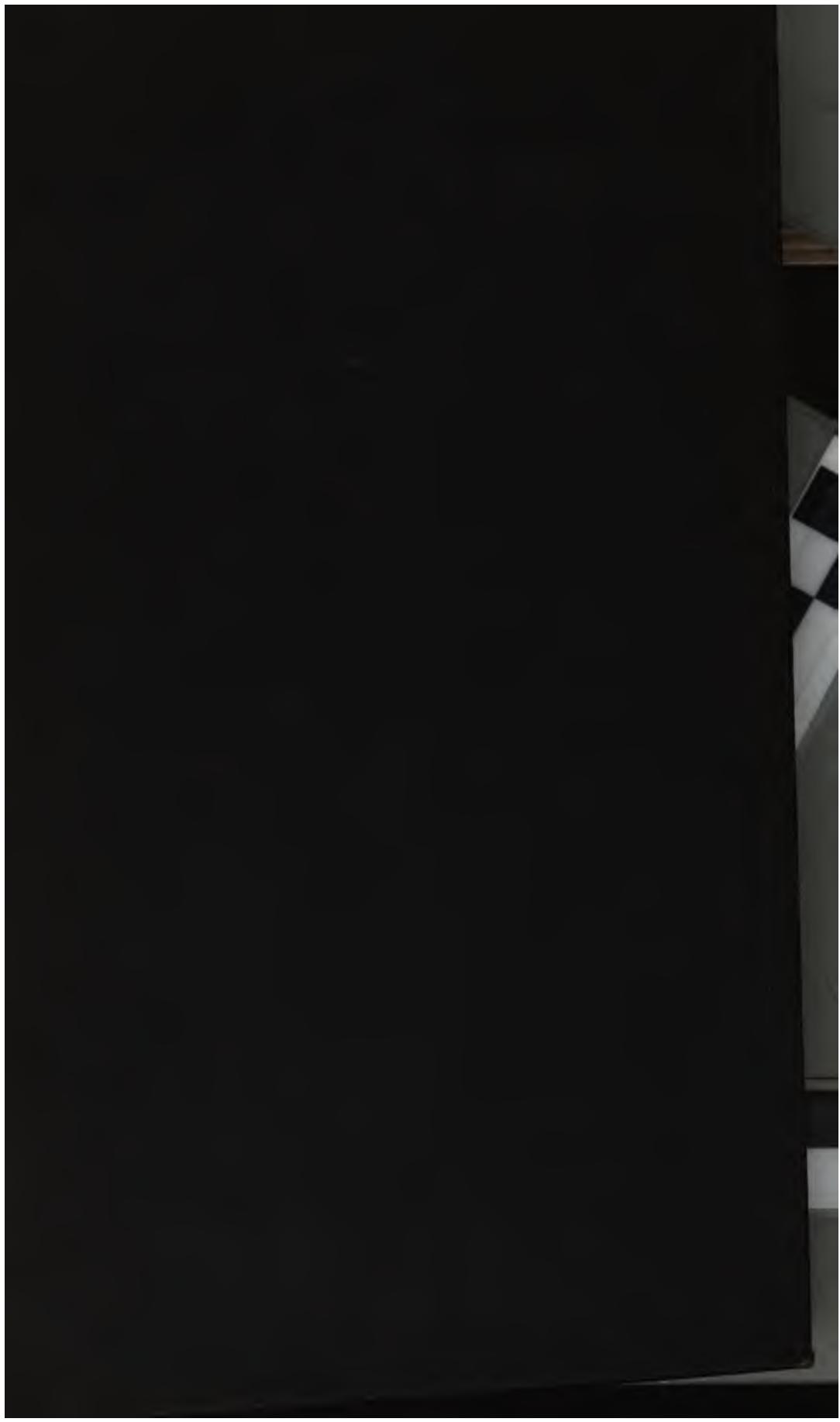
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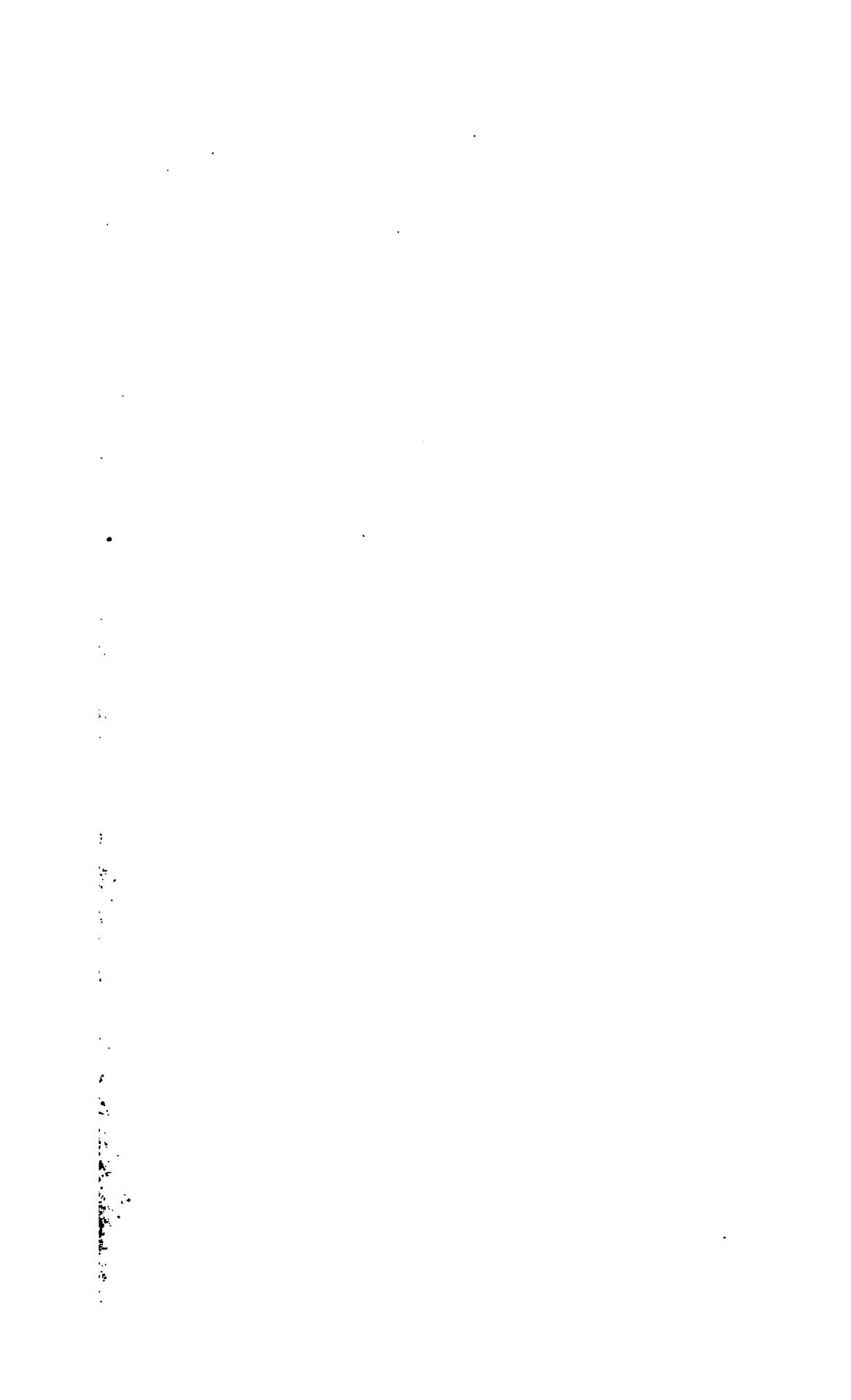
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ACCOUNT

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

—

INCORPORATED, OCTOBER 24th, 1812.

—
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.
—

“ Primaque ab origine Mundi
“ Ad mea perpetuum deducite tempora carmen.”

STANFORD LIBRARY

BOSTON :

PUBLISHED BY ISAIAH THOMAS, JUN.

November—1813.

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УКАЗАНИЯ ДОПУСКА

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AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

AT a stated meeting of the **AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY**, September 29, 1813, a committee was appointed to draw up an account of the nature of the Institution, with a detailed statement of its objects, for the purpose of publication, together with the petition to the Legislature for an Act of Incorporation, the Act of Incorporation, Bye Laws, &c.

The Committee having attended to that duty, presented to the Society their **REPORT**, which was read and accepted, and is as follows :

THE great benefits arising to the civilized world from associations of individuals for promoting knowledge, industry, or virtue, are universally acknowledged. It is an obvious truth, that men, without regard to nation, sect, or party, by united exertions in one general pursuit, may effect more in a few years, than could be accomplished, individually, in ages. They are so constituted by nature, that "human actions, and the events which befall human beings, have more power-

ful influence than any other objects, to engage and fix their attention." We cannot obtain a knowledge of those, who are to come after us, nor are we certain what will be the events of future times; as it is in our power, so it should be our duty, to bestow on posterity that, which they cannot give to us, but which they may enlarge and improve, and transmit to those, who shall succeed them.—It is but paying a debt we owe to our forefathers.

From combinations of this kind, the old continents, within the last century and an half, have received and diffused more light and useful information in the arts and sciences, and in the natural, civil and religious history of the habitable globe, than had been exhibited to mankind for thousands of preceding years.

The first society of scientific men among the moderns of which history gives us any certain information, was established near the close of the eighth century, by Charlemagne, at his imperial palace in France, by the recommendation of Alcuinus, one of the most learned men of the age. This society in time was productive of many others; few, however, appeared, which were of great advantage to the publick, or gained a permanent establishment, till the middle of the seventeenth century. Many literary and scientific institutions were then formed, and afterwards greatly increased and spread through the several quarters of the globe. We will take notice of that class only of those societies, which had the same object in view, as the one of which we are members,

Irish historians have asserted, that “there was an ancient college of antiquaries erected in Ireland by Ollamh Fodhla, one of its kings, seven hundred years before Christ, for the purpose of composing a history of that country ;” and to this, say they, “it is owing, that the history and antiquities of this kingdom may be traced back beyond that of most other nations.” But the first society of Antiquaries, of which we have any authentic information, is that which originated in England in 1572, under the auspices of Archbishop Parker, Camden, Sir Robert Cotton, and others. Although it was not incorporated, its reputation gradually increased until the reign of James I, who, in turbulent times, “fearing it might canvass the secret transactions of his government, suppressed it.” It was revived in the year 1717. From this time the importance of the society increased, and in 1751, it was incorporated by the name of “The President, Council and Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries” in England. “It is now in a very flourishing condition, consisting of many learned and ingenious men of the nobility, gentry and clergy, whose business, as members, is to discover the antiquities of their own, as well as of other nations.” Their council, says Mr. Rees, “consists of twenty one persons, ten of whom are annually changed; the election of members is by ballot, by a certificate signed by three or more fellows being previously exhibited for six ordinary successive meetings, except in the case of peers, members of the privy council and judges, who may be proposed by a single member and balloted for the same day;

and the choice is determined by a majority of two thirds. Every member pays an admission fee of five guineas and two guineas a year ; or, as an equivalent, a sum of twenty one guineas. They have weekly meetings. This society began to publish its discoveries in 1770, under the title of *Archœologia.*"

An institution similar to that of the Antiquarian Society in England, and for like purposes, was founded in Scotland in 1780, and received the royal charter in 1803.

There is a society of Antiquaries at Upsal in Sweden, which owes its rise to queen Christina, but its establishment to her successor, Charles Gustavus ; its design is to collect and illustrate the antiquities of that country, and the northern languages. Another was instituted at Copenhagen, in Denmark, in 1742 ; its immediate object is to make researches into, and explain the antiquities and history of that country. It is patronized by the king.—An Academy of Antiquities exists at Cortona, in Italy, the members of which are very respectable, numerous, and not confined to that country. It was founded for the study, &c. of the Hetrurian Antiquities ; the chief officer is called Lucumon, by which name the ancient governors of Italy are said to have been distinguished.

There are in Europe many other similar institutions ; all of which, having proper funds, have been very useful. Many more for want of funds were of short duration.

An institution of this kind was formed at Calcutta in the East Indies, called the Asiatic Society, by Sir William Jones, in 1784 ; the objects of which are the antiquities, history, arts, and literature of the continent of Asia.

Among the numerous societies formed in the United States for the promotion of literature, the useful and fine arts, and other valuable purposes, it appeared that one more might be added, which could also be truly beneficial, not only to the present, but particularly to future generations—a society not confined to local purposes—not intended for the particular advantage of any one state or section of the union, or for the benefit of a few individuals—one whose members may be found in every part of our western continent and its adjacent islands, and who are citizens of all parts of this quarter of the world.

Should it be asked, what are the intended objects of this society ?—We will answer in the words of Sir William Jones to the members of the Asiatic Society, “ Man and Nature—whatever is, or has been performed by the one, or produced by the other.”—“ Human knowledge,” says he, “ has been elegantly analysed according to the three great faculties of the mind, Memory, Reason and Imagination, which we constantly find employed in arranging and retaining, comparing and distinguishing, combining and diversifying, the ideas which we receive through our senses, or acquire by reflection ; hence the three main branches of Learning are History, Science and Art.”

The chief objects of the enquiries and researches of this society will be American Antiquities, natural, artificial and literary ; not, however, excluding those of other countries. It must be acknowledged that the study of Antiquity offers to the curious and inquisitive a large field for research, for sublime reflection, and for amusement.—Those who make enquiry, and those who make collections in this branch of science, “ furnish the historian with his best materials, while he distinguishes from truth the fictions of a bold invention, and ascertains the credibility of facts ; and to the philosopher he presents a faithful source of ingenious speculation, while he points out to him the way of thinking, and the manners of men, under all the varieties of aspect in which they have appeared.”

As all things, which are in their nature durable, if preserved from casualty and the ravages of time, in a course of years will become antique, it will be also an object of this society to deposit, from time to time, such modern productions as will denote to those who succeed us, the progress of literature, the arts, manners, customs and discoveries in our time with accuracy.

Thus by an attention to these objects, which the society hope to promote by the exertion of its members residing in various parts of this vast continent, the utility of the institution will speedily be realized, and it may in time vie with those of a similar kind in Europe, which are now so justly celebrated. Each individual of the Society, we persuade our-

selvés, will imbibe a belief, that its reputation, in a great degree depends on his individual efforts ; and will feel an interest in collecting and forwarding to the Librarian, the Secretaries, or to any officer of the Institution, such antiquities of our country, whether of nature or of art, as may be portable, and which he can obtain ; and authentic accounts of such as cannot be transported ; with such articles of modern date, as are curious and interesting, and will tend to aid the purposes of the establishment.—Justice will be done to the donor—his name will live on the records.

Among the articles of deposit, books of every description, including pamphlets and magazines, especially those which were early printed either in South or in North America ; files of Newspapers of former times, or of the present day, are particularly desirable—as are specimens, with written accounts respecting them, of fossils, handicrafts of the Aborigines, &c. Manuscripts, ancient and modern, on interesting subjects, particularly those which give accounts of remarkable events, discoveries, or the description of any part of the continent, or the islands in the American seas ; maps, charts, &c.

The decline as well as the rise of nations is in the course of nature—like causes will produce like effects—and, in some distant period, a decline may be the state of our country. A depository like this, may not only retard the ravages of time, but preserve from other causes of destruction, many precious

relics of antiquity, many specimens of the work of nature, and those of modern art, which once lost could never be restored.

For the better preservation from the destruction so often experienced in large towns and cities by fire, as well as from the ravages of an enemy, to which seaports in particular are so much exposed in times of war, it is universally agreed, that for a place of deposit for articles intended to be preserved for ages, and of which many, if destroyed, or carried away, could never be replaced by others of the like kind, an inland situation is to be preferred ; this consideration alone was judged sufficient for placing the Library and Museum of this Society forty miles distant from the nearest branch of the sea, in the town of Worcester, Massachusetts, on the great road from all the southern and western states to Boston, the capital of New England.

It is almost needless to observe, that a society of this kind cannot be supported with any degree of respectability or usefulness without funds—donations, legacies, contributions, and royal patronage, are the support of those in Europe, and have raised them to a state of eminence—and, it is not doubted that there are persons in America, who are as public spirited as those in Europe, by whose aid this society will be enabled to pursue those researches, so desirable, into the antiquities of our country—to make valuable collections of them, and of other articles proper for this institution, and to deposit them

in a suitable, permanent building, which it is intended shall soon be erected for their safe keeping; where they may at all times be found, and be, not only pleasing, but useful to the members of historical, philosophical, and, perhaps, of other societies, as well as to individuals.

ISAIAH THOMAS, *per order.*

WORCESTER, *October, 1813.*

PETITION *to the LEGISLATURE. October, 1813.*

*To the Honourable SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court
assembled.*

THE subscribers influenced by a desire to contribute to the advancement of the Arts and Sciences and to aid, by their individual and united efforts, in collecting and preserving such materials as may be useful in making their progress, not only in the United States, but in other parts of the globe, and wishing also to assist the researches of the future historians of our country, respectfully represent to the legislature, that, in their opinion, the establishment of an Antiquarian Society, within this Commonwealth, would conduce essentially to the attainment of these objects. At present there is no public association for such purposes within the United States. The rapid progress of science, and of the useful and ornamental arts, in our country, may be ascribed in a great degree to the numerous public

institutions originated by patriotic individuals, but deriving their countenance and support from legislative authority. Such a society as is now contemplated, as its objects are essentially distinct from any other in our country, it is believed, may advantageously cooperate with, without in the slightest degree impairing the utility of other institutions ; its immediate and peculiar design is, to discover the antiquities of our own continent ; and, by providing a fixed and permanent place of deposit, to preserve such relics of American antiquity as are portable, as well as to collect and preserve those of other parts of the globe. By the long and successful labours of the College of Antiquaries in Ireland, their historians, it is said, have been enabled to trace the history of that country to an earlier period than that of any other nation of Europe. The researches of a similar society in England established at a later period, at times discouraged, but now aided and fostered by the patronage of the government, have not merely furnished food for curiosity, but have provided many valuable materials for the benefit of history, the improvement of science, and the advancement of the arts of life. Almost every nation indeed of the European world bears witness to the utility of similar institutions. To the enlightened Legislature of Massachusetts the Subscribers do not deem it necessary to exhibit more in detail the advantages, which may be expected from such an establishment within this Commonwealth—They ask

for no other aid from the Commonwealth, than the facilities which, in the pursuit of their objects, may accrue from an Act of Incorporation. As an inducement to the grant of these privileges, they beg leave to state that one of their number is, at this time, in possession of a valuable collection of books obtained with great labour and expense, the value of which may be fairly estimated at about five thousand dollars, some of them more ancient than are to be found in any other part of our country, and all of which he intends to transfer to the proposed society, should their project receive the sanction and encouragement of the Legislature. This grant which is designed as the foundation of a superstructure to be hereafter erected, with such other conditions as may be reasonably expected, the subscribers believe will ensure the future growth and prosperity of the institution.

As no injury can at any rate be apprehended from such an experiment, even if it should prove unsuccessful, and as it may be productive of much public advantage, the petitioners flatter themselves their project will not be discountenanced by the government of Massachusetts.

They therefore respectfully pray for leave to bring in a bill for the incorporation of themselves, and such persons as may hereafter associate with them, into a Society by the name of the **AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY**, with the privilege of holding real estate in perpetuity of the annual value of

fifteen hundred dollars, and with such other privileges and immunities as are usually granted by acts of incorporation to other public societies established within this Commonwealth.

ISAIAH THOMAS,
NATH'L PAINE,
WM. PAINE,
LEVI LINCOLN,
AARON BANCROFT,
EDW'D BANGS.

Sec'y's Office, } A true copy of the petition on
Dec. 3d 1812. } file in this office.

Attest,

ALDEN BRADFORD, *Sec'y Commonwealth.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

An Act to incorporate the AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

WHEREAS the collection and preservation of the antiquities of our country, and of curious and valuable productions in Art and Nature, have a tendency to enlarge the sphere of human knowledge, aid the progress of science, to perpetuate the history of moral and political events, and to improve and interest posterity.

Therefore,

SEC. I. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that Isaiah Thomas, Levi Lincoln, Harrison G. Otis, Timothy Bigelow, Nathaniel Paine, Edward Bangs, Esqrs. John T. Kirkland, L. L. D. Aaron Bancroft, D. D. Jonathan H. Lyman, Elijah H. Mills, Elisha Hammond, Timothy Williams, William D. Peck, John Lowell, Edmund Dwight, Eleazer James, Josiah Quincy, William S. Shaw, Francis Blake, Levi Lincoln, Jr. Samuel M. Burnside and Benjamin Russell, Esqs. Rev. Thaddeus M. Harris, Redford Webster, Thomas Walcut, Ebenezer T. Andrews, Isaiah Thomas, Jr. William Wells, and such others as may associate with them for the purposes aforesaid, be, and hereby are formed into and constituted a society, and body politic and corporate, by the name of the American Antiquarian Society ; and that they and their successors, and such other persons as shall be legally elected by them, shall be, and continue a body politic and corporate, by that name forever.

SEC. II. Be it further enacted, that the members of said Society shall have power to elect a President, Vice Presidents, and such other officers as they may determine to be necessary ; and that the said Society shall have one common seal, and the same may break, change and renew at pleasure, and that the

same society, by the name aforesaid, as a body politic and corporate, may sue and be sued, prosecute and defend suits to final judgment and execution.

Sec. III. *Be it further enacted*, that the said society shall have power to make orders and by-laws for governing its members and property, not repugnant to the laws of this Commonwealth, and may expel, disfranchise, or suspend any member who by misconduct shall be rendered unworthy.

Sec. IV. *Be it further enacted*, that said society may, from time to time, establish rules for electing officers and members, and also times and places for holding meetings, and shall be capable to take and hold real or personal estate by gift, grant, devise, or otherways, and the same or any part thereof, to alien and convey ; provided, that the annual income of any real estate by said society holden shall never exceed the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, and that the personal estate thereof, exclusive of books, papers and articles in the museum of said society, shall never exceed the value of seven thousand dollars.

Sec. V. *Be it further enacted*, that said society may elect honorary members residing in, and without, the limits of this Commonwealth. And that Isaiah Thomas, Esq. be, and hereby is authorized and empowered to notify and warn the first meeting of said society ; and that the said society, when met, shall agree upon a method for calling future meetings, and have power to adjourn, from time to time, as may be found necessary.

SEC. VI. *Be it further enacted*, that the Library and Museum of said society shall be kept in the town of Worcester, in the county of Worcester.

In the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES, October 23, 1812. This bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted.

TIMOTHY BIGELOW, *Speaker.*

In SENATE, October 24, 1812. This bill having had two several readings passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL DANA, *President.*

October 24th, 1812. } CALEB STRONG.
Approved, }

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Nov: 2, 1812.

A true copy, Attest,

ALDEN BRADFORD, *Sec'y Commonwealth.*

NOTIFICATION AND WARNING

To the Members Incorporated to attend the first meeting.

American Society of Antiquaries.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, passed October 24, 1812, Isaiah Thomas, Levi Lincoln, H. G. Otis, Timothy Bigelow, Nathaniel Paine and Edward Bangs, Esqrs. J. T. Kirkland, D. D. Aaron Bancroft, D. D. William Paine, M.D. Jonathan H. Lyman, Elijah H. Mills, Elijah Hammond, Timothy Williams, William D. Peck, John Lowell, Edmund Dwight, Elea-

zer James, Josiah Quincy, William S. Shaw, Francis Blake, Levi Lincoln, Jun. Samuel M. Burnside and Benjamin Russell, Esqrs. Rev. Thaddeus M. Harris, Redford Webster, Thomas Walcutt, Ebenezer T. Andrews, William Wells, and Isaiah Thomas, Jun. and such others as may associate with them for the purposes therein mentioned, were "formed into, and constituted a Society, and body politic and corporate, by the name of "*The American Antiquarian Society,*" for the purposes therein specified.

And whereas, by the fifth section of said Act, the undersigned is "authorised and empowered to notify and warn the first meeting of said Society," therefore, in conformity thereto, he hereby notifies and warns each and every of the persons above named to meet at the Exchange Coffee House in Boston, on Thursday the 19th day of November instant, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to take such measures as shall be necessary for organizing said Society, establishing such Rules and Regulations as shall be deemed expedient, "agree upon a method for calling future meetings," and to act upon any other matter or thing relating to the objects of said institution.

ISAIAH THOMAS.

WORCESTER, November 2, 1812.

The members met at the time and place appointed, and the Society was organized.

LAWS

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

ARTICLE I.

THERE shall be a President and two Vice Presidents. It shall be the duty of the President, and in his absence, of one of the Vice Presidents, to preside in the meetings, and to regulate the debates of the Society and the Council; to call meetings of the Council, and extraordinary meetings of the Society by advice of Council. The President, or presiding officer, shall vote in council, and also have a casting vote. The Vice Presidents shall *ex officio* be members of the Council.

ARTICLE II.

There shall be seven Counsellors, exclusive of the President and Vice Presidents; any four of the whole number shall constitute a quorum. It shall be the duty of the Counsellors to direct the Corresponding Secretaries in the performance of their duty; to present to the Society for their acceptance, such regulations and by-laws as from time to time shall be thought expedient; to receive donations, and with the President to purchase, sell or lease, for the benefit of the Society, real or personal estate; to draw orders on the Treasury for necessary monies; and in general to manage the prudentials of the Society. It shall be the duty of the Council, to enquire concerning the characters of persons

living out of the Commonwealth, proper to be elected honorary members; particularly in Spanish America.

ARTICLE III.

There shall be one Recording Secretary; and one assistant Recording Secretary; and two Corresponding Secretaries. The Recording Secretary shall be the Keeper of the Seal of the Society. It shall be his duty to attend all meetings of the Society and Council, and to make and keep records of all their proceedings; and shall keep on file all literary papers belonging to the Society under the direction of the Council. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretaries to receive and read all communications made to the Society; and to manage, under the direction of the Council, all the correspondence of the Society.

ARTICLE IV.

There shall be a Treasurer, who shall give such security as the President and Council shall require, for the faithful performance of his trust. It shall be his duty to receive and keep all monies and evidences of property belonging to the Society; to pay out to the order of the President and Council; to keep a record of his receipts and payments, exhibit the same, and settle with a Committee which shall be annually appointed for this purpose; and he shall put the money of the Society out to interest, under the direction of the Council.

ARTICLE V.

There shall be a Librarian and Cabinet Keeper, who shall give bonds to the satisfaction of the President and Council for the faithful performance of his trust. He shall receive, and have in his custody, all books, papers, productions of nature and works of art, the property of the Society. These he shall arrange in classes and register in a book, with a proper description of each article, with the donor's name, when the same shall be a present. No article shall ever on any occasion be loaned or taken from

the Museum ; nor shall any book or other article be borrowed from the Library, except by a vote of the Council, and then the loan of such article shall be recorded, and a receipt given therefor by the borrower, engaging to return the same in four weeks, or pay a forfeiture, such as by a vote of the Council shall be affixed.

ARTICLE VI.

There shall annually be three meetings of the Society, viz.—one in Boston on the twenty second day of December, and when the same shall fall on a Sabbath, then the day after ; one in Boston on the first Wednesday in June ; and one in Worcester on the Wednesday next after the fourth Tuesday of September, at such hours and places as shall be notified by the Secretary. At the annual meeting in Boston in December, shall be chosen by ballot, all the officers of the Society to serve during the following year, and until others are chosen. At this meeting a public oration shall be delivered by some person to be appointed by the Council. [The last section of this law is altered. The Oration is to be delivered annually on the 23d of October.]

ARTICLE VII.

At any meeting of the Society, any member may propose a candidate for admission, by writing the name of the candidate, with his own name, in a book to be kept by the Recording Secretary for that purpose ; and at the next meeting such candidate may be balloted for, and on obtaining two thirds of the votes given in, shall be constituted a member.

ARTICLE VIII.

Each member shall annually pay into the hands of the Treasurer, at the meeting in December, two dollars towards a fund ; and every person who shall neglect to pay the annual tax, and shall suffer himself to be in arrear for three annual taxes, after having been called upon by the Treasurer in person, or by writ-

ten order, shall be considered as having abdicated his interest in the Society and no longer a member.

ARTICLE IX.

All meetings, standing or special, shall be notified by the Recording Secretary, under the direction of the President and Council, in one newspaper published in Boston, and one in Worcester, fourteen days previous to the day of the meeting; in which notification, the hour and place of the meeting shall be designated.

ARTICLE X.

In case of the death, resignation, incapacity or removal out of the State of either of the Secretaries, or the Treasurer, or Librarian, the Council shall take charge of the official books, papers and effects belonging to the vacated office, giving receipts for the same, which books, &c. they may deliver to some person, whom they may appoint to fill the office until the next meeting of the society, when there shall be a new choice.

BY-LAWS.

At a Meeting of the Society on the 23d of October, 1813, at the Exchange Coffee House in Boston, the following By-Laws were reported and accepted, viz.

I. THE ballots for the election of officers, and for the admission of members, shall be collected by a committee chosen by nomination, who shall assort and count the votes, and make report to the presiding officer, and he shall declare the result to the Society.

II. Every member who shall advance twenty dollars to the funds, shall be excused paying the annual tax of two dollars.

III. Every new member shall be notified of his election by a printed letter signed by the Recording Secretary.

IV. The Secretary shall record, in a book for this purpose, the name of the members, and the times of their admission.

V. All books and other articles belonging to the society shall be appraised, and the price of each article shall be mentioned in the catalogue.

VI. A correct copy of the catalogue of books and other articles shall be made out by the librarian and cabinet keeper, or by a committee chosen by the society for this purpose, which copy shall be kept by the president for the time being. And, as additions are made to the library and museum, they shall be entered on the catalogue and on the copy thereof.

VII. Every deed to which the common seal of the Society is affixed, shall be passed and sealed in Council, signed by the President, and attested by the Secretary.

VIII. There shall be a temporary place of deposit in Boston, and in such other places as the Council shall hereafter direct, for the convenience of those who may be disposed to present to the Society any articles for its library or museum. Every article so deposited, shall, as soon after as circumstances will permit, be forwarded to the library and museum in Worcester.

* * * *In conformity to this article, a temporary place of deposit is provided in Boston, at No. 6, Marlborough Street; where any thing left for the society will be received, and carefully attended to, by I. THOMAS, Jun.*



AT a stated meeting of the Society holden in Boston at the Exchange Coffee House, June 2, 1813.

VOTED, that the 6th article of the laws be so far altered, as that the ORATION contemplated therein to be delivered on the

22d of *December*, annually, be delivered on the 23d day of *October*, the day on which America was discovered by **COLUMBUS.**

At a meeting of the Society, at the Exchange Coffee House, in Boston, October 23d, 1813.

VOTED, that the 7th article of the laws be so far altered, as that all nominations for members, shall hereafter be submitted to a committee of three, for their approbation ; and, if approved by said committee, the names of the candidates, with the names of the members who proposed said candidates, shall then be entered in the book of nominations, and the candidates may be ballot-ed for at the next meeting of the Society.

**LIST OF OFFICERS
AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,
OCTOBER 25, 1813.**

[Annual Meetings for the choice of Officers are holden in BOSTON on the
22d of December.]

OFFICERS for the present Year, 1813.

PRESIDENT.

ISAIAH THOMAS, Esq. of Worcester.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

**WILLIAM D. PECK, Profes. University Camb.
Dr. WILLIAM PAINÉ, Worcester.**

COUNSELLORS.

Hon. TIMOTHY BIGELOW, Medford,
Rev. Dr. AARON BANCROFT, Worcester,
EDWARD BANGS, Esq. do.
GEORGE GIBBS, Esq. Boston.
REV. WILLIAM BENTLEY, Salem,
Dr. REDFORD WEBSTER, Boston,
BENJAMIN RUSSELL, Esq. do.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.

Rev. Dr. THADDEUS M. HARRIS, Dorchester.
Rev. WILLIAM JENKS, Profes. Bowdoin College.

TREASURER.

LEVI LINCOLN, Jun. Esq. Worcester.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

SAMUEL M. BURNSIDE, Esq. Worcester.

ASSISTANT RECORDING SECRETARY.

EBENEZER T. ANDREWS, Boston.

LIBRARIAN.*

* By a vote of the Society, the LIBRARY, &c. are to remain with the President until a place of deposit is provided.

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Elijah H. Mills, Esq. do.
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Isaiah Thomas, jun. do.
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Sidney Willard, Prof. University, Cambridge,
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Nathaniel G. Snelling, do.
Hon. Elias Hasket Derby, Charlestown,
His Excellency William Jones, Governor Rhodeisland,
William Goddard, Esq. Providence, R. I.
William Wilkinson, Esq. do. R. I.
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Rev. Dr. Joseph Lyman, Hatfield,
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Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight, L. L. D. President Yale College,
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Samuel Bridgham, Esq. Providence, R. I.
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Isaac Goodwin, Esq. Sterling,

**Rev. William Nash, West Boylston,
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Josiah Bartlett, Esq. Charlestown,
Hon. Elijah Brigham, Westborough,
Thomas W. Ward, Esq. Shrewsbury,
Abijah Bigelow, Esq. Leominster,
Abraham Biglow, Esq. Cambridge,
Rev. Francis Brown, North Yarmouth.**

[Those names to which no state is affixed, are of Massachusetts.]

LIST OF MEMBERS, Continued.

[Elected since October, 1813. Arranged Alphabetically.]

- Hon. John Adams, L. L. D. late President of the United States, Quincy, Mass.
- Hon. John Quincy Adams, L. L. D. Minister to the Court of Russia ; Quincy, Mass.
- Rev. William Allen, Pittsfield, Mass.
- Nathaniel Adams, Esq. Portsmouth, Newhampshire.
- Profes. Benjamin Smith Barton, M. D. Philadelphia, Penn.
- William Barton, Esq. Philadelphia, Penn.
- Loammi Baldwin, Esq. Cambridge, Mass.
- Hon. William Baylies, Bridgewater.
- Hon. Egbert Benson, I. I. D. Newyork.
- William Bigelow, M. A. Boston, Mass.
- John G. Bogent, Esq. Russian Consul, Newyork.
- General Joseph Bloomfield, Newjersey.
- William Bond, Dorchester, Mass.
- Hon. Jabez Bowen, L. L. D. Providence, R. I.
- Hon. Elias Boudinot, L. L. D. Burlington, Newjersey.
- John Leeds Bozman, Esq. Maryland.
- Oliver Bray, Esq. Portland, Maine.
- Rev. Jonathan Burr, Sandwich, Mass.
- Hon. Christopher Grant Champlin, Newport, R. I.
- Rev. John Chester, Hudson, Newyork.
- Dr. Abraham Clark, Newark, Newjersey.
- Hon. De Witt Clinton, L. L. D. Newyork.
- Hon. David Cobb, Goldsborough, Maine.
- Rossitter Cotton, Esq. Plymouth, Mass.
- Rev. Charles Coffin, D. D. Tennessee.
- Hon. William Cranch, Chief Justice Columbia District, Washington.
- Rev. Manassah Cutler, L. L. D. Hamilton, Mass.
- Hon. Thomas Dawes, Boston, Mass.
- Silas Dinsmore, Esq. Agent of the United States, to the Choctaw Nation.
- Hon. William Ellery, Newport, Rhodeisland.
- Profes. John Farrar, University of Cambridge, Mass.

Moses Fiske, Esq. Tennessee.
Hon. Nathaniel Freeman, Sandwich, Mass.
Robert Fulton, Esq. Newyork.
Henry Ghan, Esq. Swedish Consul, Newyork.
Ebenezer Gay, Esq. Hingham, Mass.
His Excellency John Taylor Gilman, Governour of Newhampshire, Exeter.
Hon. Christopher Gore, L. L. D. Waltham, Mass.
Rev. Ashbel Greene, D. D. President College Trenton, New-Jersey.
Rev. William Harris, D. D. President Columbia College, N. Y.
Colonel Benjamin Hawkins, Northcarolina, Agent to the Upper Creek Nation.
Hon. James Hillhouse, Newhaven, Connecticut.
Dr. Gad Hitchcock, Scituate, Mass.
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Hon. John Jay, L. L. D. Newyork.
Peter Augustus Jay, Esq. Newyork.
Hon. Thomas Jefferson, L. L. D. late President of the United States, Virginia.
Samuel Jennison, Jun. Worcester, Mass.
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Samuel L. Knapp, Esq. Newburyport, Mass.
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Nathaniel Lord, 3d Esq. Ipswich, Mass.
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Rev. Dr. John Mitchill Mason, Profes. Columbia College, N. Y.
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Hugh M'Call, Esq. Georgia.
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Rev. Burgiss Mison, D. D. Burlington, Newjersey.
Hon. Samuel Latham Mitchill, Profes. Natural History, Univ. Newyork.
Hon. Gouverneur Morris, Morristown, Newyork.
Rev. Henry Muhlenberg, D. D. Pennsylvania.

Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D. President Union College Skene-
tady, Newyork.
Hon. Elijah Paine, L. L. D. Williamstown, Vermont.
Rev. Elijah Parrish, D. D. Byefield Mass.
Hon. George Partridge, Duxbury, Mass.
His Honour William Phillips, Lieut. Governour, Mass.
Hon. John Phillips, President Senate, Mass.
Hon. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Charleston, S. C.
Major General Thomas Pinckney, Charleston, S. C.
John Pintard, Esq; Newyork.
Samuel Wyllis Pomroy, Esq. Brighton, Mass.
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Rev. James Richards, Newark, Newjersey.
Hon. Edward H. Robbins, Milton, Mass.
Richard Rush, Esq. Attorney General U. S. Washington.
Hon. Winthrop Sargent, late Gov. Missi. Ter. Natches.
Eppes Sargent, Esq. Boston, Mass.
Samuel Savage, M. D. Barnstable, Mass.
Rev. Daniel Clark Saunders, D. D. President Vermont Uni-
versity, Burlington.
David Scudder, Esq. Barnstable, Mass.
James Seaver, Esq. Kingston, Mass.
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Court Massachusetts, Marblehead.
His Excellency John Cotton Smith, Gov. Connect. Farmington.
Rev. Isaac Smith, Boston, Mass.
Hon. Jeremiah Smith, L. L. D. Judge Su. Court, N. H. Exeter.
His Excellency Caleb Strong, I. L. D. Governour Massachu-
sets, Northampton.
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Peter O. Thatcher, Esq. Boston, Mass.
Dr. James Thatcher, Plymouth, Mass.
Caleb Thaxter, Esq. Hingham, Mass.

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 Hon. Charles Thompson, L. L. D. Philadelphia.
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 Hon. Oliver Wolcott, L. L. D. Newyork.
 John Winslow, Esq. Hanover, Mass.
 Dr. Isaac Winslow, Mansfield, Mass.

At a stated meeting of the American Antiquarian Society, holden at the Exchange Coffee House in Boston, June 1, 1814,

On motion of Samuel J. Prescott, Esq.

VOTED, unanimously, that the Eighth Article of the Laws of this Society be amended, and stand as follows, viz.

ARTICLE VIII.

Each member, residing within this Commonwealth, shall annually pay to the Treasurer of said Society, at the meeting in October, two dollars, towards a fund for the necessary contingent expenses of the Society; and any such member, who shall neglect to pay said annual tax, and shall suffer himself to be in arrear for three annual taxes, after having been called upon by the Treasurer in person, or by written order, shall be considered as having abdicated his interest in the Society, and no longer a member.

A true Copy from the Records,

Attest, SAMUEL M. BURNSIDE, Rec. Sec'y.

Ms. A. 1. 12. v. 1. p. 1

COMMUNICATION

FROM THE
P R E S I D E N T
OF THE
AMERICAN
ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

TO THE
M E M B E R S,

OCTOBER 24th, 1814.

(Published by Order of the Society.)

TOGETHER WITH
THE LAWS OF THE SOCIETY, AS REVISED.

WORCESTER, (MASS.)

PRINTED BY WILLIAM MANNING.

COMMUNICATION

THE MOST
VOTED RESOLUTIONS

OF THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

*At the Annual Meeting of the AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, at the Exchange Coffeehouse in Boston, on Monday, the 24th day of October,**

VOTED, That the Communication made to the Society this day, by the President, be printed, and that a Copy be sent to each Member.

* The 2nd day of October, the day on which Columbus first discovered America, is the day appropriated for the annual meetings of the Society; but when it falls on Sunday, the meeting is to be held on the Monday following.

AT a meeting of the Society on the 24th of October, 1814, a Committee was chosen to revise the laws; and, also, a Committee of Ways and Means for erecting a suitable edifice for the Library, Museum &c. of the Society.

COMMUNICATION.

GENTLEMEN,

AS our Society comes together periodically, and continues any meeting but for a short time, we have not leisure either to project or to mature many plans for the promotion of the designs of the institution.

In consequence of the relation in which I now stand with the Society, until some further provision shall be made for regular meetings of the Standing Council, and their powers and duties are extended, I have deemed it not inconsistent with official duties, to take into consideration the general state and affairs of the Institution ; to receive the suggestions of any of its members for its benefit ; and to present them, under existing circumstances, to you, that such notice may be taken of them as shall appear to be expedient.

Our Society is in its infancy, but it has a legal existence, and by proper exertions will become useful to our country. Similar institutions in Europe, which now rank high in publick estimation, for many years after their formation, were not of more consequence to the countries wherein they were established, than the American Antiquarian Society is, at this time, to the United States.

The Books on our Catalogue will not bear comparison with those of the long established Libraries of Antiquaries in Europe. We have only a few volumes of very ancient typography.* Our small Library consists, principally, of Books of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries; but many of them are valuable, particularly those by American authors, inasmuch as they assist us in the discovery of the then state of literature, and of religion, in our country. Time will make those which are modern, more precious—they will become antique. We have in our collection, files of the first newspapers printed in British North America, which are probably the earliest that were published in this western world. We have, also, some of the first periodical works which appeared in Europe.

You will, Gentlemen, see by the records, that, during the past year, the Library has considerably increased; and that, within this period, many articles have been presented for the Cabinet. Our Library now consists of nearly three thousand volumes.†

When we consider, that the vast Libraries, and the splendid Museums, possessed by similar institutions on the elder continent, had an origin as humble as ours, we may with confidence indulge the hope, that when this institution shall have ar-

* These are of the 15th century.

† Since this Communication was made, about 900 volumes, being the remains of the Library, formerly belonging to Drs. Increase and Cotton Mather, the most ancient in Massachusetts, if not in the United States, have been presented to the Society.

rived at the respectable age which those now bear, its means for extensive usefulness will not be exceeded by any of the like kind in any section of the globe. But,

A Society cannot become extensively useful, unless the objects for which it is instituted, are pursued with some degree of energy. It will not be expected that we should individually devote a very considerable part of our time to the affairs of this institution; yet, without injury to himself, every member may do something for its benefit. There are various ways by which we may contribute to its prosperity;—some may bestow a little personal attention to the management of its local concerns;—others may devise projects, by which its interest and its usefulness may be essentially promoted;—and others collect, as convenience and opportunity permit, articles for its Cabinet, and donations of books, files of newspapers or other periodical works, maps, charts, manuscripts, and various articles proper for the institution. If each member would, at his leisure, collect and send, at least annually, something worth preserving to the Library or Museum, although the value of the gift be small, the stock of books and of articles in our Cabinet, would, in a few years, appear highly worthy of the inspection of the most profound Antiquary of this or any other country.

At this day, there are numberless old books, newspapers and magazines, and many relicks of antiquity, crowded together in garrets and store houses,

of no use to any one, and hastening to destruction by means of the weather and vermin ; but, if they were deposited with this Society, many articles might be selected from them, worthy of preservation, and interesting to posterity.

It would seem, at first view, a well founded observation, that by printing, and its multiplicity of copies, society was forever relieved from all danger of the total loss of any work which has been through the press ; experience, however, teaches, that of thousands of editions of printed books, not a copy of them is now to be found ; and if, of others, there may remain here and there a copy among rubbish, they are of no use, for no one knows where to search for them.

Some method should be adopted to procure, and deposit in the Library, the publications which from time to time issue from the press. This can be effected, in a great measure, if each member will enjoin on himself, annually, to present to the Society one or more volumes.

Thousands of newspapers, and other periodical works, are destroyed after they have had the usual reading. Instead of permitting this destruction, if the members would direct these publications, after having been perused in their families, to be carefully laid aside ; and, if such members, once in six months, or yearly, would send them to the Society's Library, or places of temporary deposit, it would afford a sufficient supply of this necessary article for preservation.

There are but few who do not wish their labours to be known to posterity. Every author, every printer or publisher of a book, or publick journal, by sending a copy of each of the works they write, print or publish, to the Library of this Society, may have their works recorded, and deposited in the best place possible for security and preservation ; and, this not being a circulating library, they will remain for centuries subject to the inspection of historians and scientifick men, and be a source of high gratification to Antiquaries of succeeding ages.

It has been remarked, and I believe correctly, that well informed printers and the best painters, in all countries, receive more pleasure in viewing and examining the labours of those of their professions who have preceded them, than is common to those who practise other arts ; and, we all know that authors who write on any particular subject, which has already been before the publick, are always desirous of ascertaining how it has been treated by those who have previously taken it into consideration.—To all such, the Library of this Society will, undoubtedly, ere long, afford much gratification.

Several things have been suggested to me by members of this Society, tending to its interest.—Permit me to mention some of them.

1. That we may make the institution better comport with the name it bears—“*American Antiquarian Society*”—and more readily effect the purposes intended, it will be expedient to have a

suitable number of respectable and useful members in all the principal cities and towns in the United States, and some in the interiour of every state.

2. That it may be advisable to alter the laws so far as to have an additional number of Counsellors, not exceeding thirty—of these, to elect annually as many as may be thought requisite, and to add others when it shall appear necessary—to choose five from Boston or its vicinity, as a Subcouncil, three to form a quorum—also five in the vicinity of the Library and Cabinet, as a Subcouncil, three of whom to form a quorum—both of which Subcouncils to meet monthly, or oftener, one in Boston, the other in Worcester, to consult on measures for the benefit of the institution, and that each Subcouncil should make report of their doings to the General Council, to be holden at regular times and places, and also on each day of the stated meetings of the Society ;—the two Subcouncils, with such other Counsellors as may meet with them, to form the General Council, four of whom to constitute a quorum for transacting the business assigned to them in Art. 2, of the laws ;—one Counsellor to be appointed for the county of Plymouth [which was the first Newengland colony] and one in each of the states wherein there shall reside not less than ten members ; each of these Counsellors to receive communications from the members in the state in which he resides, or from those of another state wherein no Counsellor may have been appointed, and forward them to the President, or to either of the Cor-

responding or Recording Secretaries, to be laid before the General Council at their then next meeting. The Counsellors chosen for other states than Massachusetts, to advise by letter, or otherwise, on any matters for the benefit of the institution, especially such as respect the members, &c. in the states wherein such Counsellors reside. The Counsellors of every state to have a seat, and to vote at the meetings of the General Council.

3. To appoint some member in every capital or chief town in the United States, and in other parts of the continent, and wherever it may be thought by the Council to be necessary, to receive articles presented to the Society, or purchased for them, and to take the charge of them until they can be forwarded to the Library or Cabinet.

4. To have more frequent stated meetings of the Society, by which means many things may be suggested and receive deliberation, and plans adopted that may essentially benefit the institution. It has been already observed, that when the members of a Society meet but seldom, and only for a few hours, but little business can be done, and they are thus rendered more indifferent to the concerns of the Institution than they otherwise would be; the Society thereby becomes inactive, and of course of less importance to the community. The stated meetings of the Antiquarian Society in England are weekly. Some of the most celebrated literary clubs of England, France and Germany, usually held their meet-

ings weekly, and some oftener. Several of them have been highly beneficial to the world. The great Locke, Newton, and other scientifick luminaries, were members of such clubs. It was in them they caught ideas which led to an explanation of those mysteries in science which till then had not been comprehended by the mind of man.

5. I am requested, also, to suggest, for your consideration, the expedience of admitting as members of this Society, some gentlemen who reside in various parts of Europe, the Eastindies and China. And, should it not be one of our first endeavours to extend membership to gentlemen of distinguished characters in Spanish and Portuguese America, particularly in the dominions of the former, where, it is believed, many valuable Antiquities of this continent may be procured?—Time and inquiry will undoubtedly furnish us with the names of suitable persons. If our Secretaries should be requested, when opportunity permits, to open a correspondence with Societies similar to our own, in Europe, we may thereby obtain such information on this subject as will be satisfactory.

Every measure that can be adopted to make the Society appear respectable as a National Institution, must be desirable. Cannot a sanction in some way be given to it by the National Legislature? Perhaps, by a petition to the National Government, it would permit newspapers, and other periodical works, to be sent to the Society in the mails, free of postage; and, it may resolve to send the Laws, &c.

of the United States, to be deposited and preserved in our Library.*

As our principal objects are to COLLECT and PRESERVE—that which demands our first attention, and on which the prosperity, if not the existence of this institution depends, is to provide means for, and to erect a suitable edifice for deposits. At a late meeting, we voted to choose a Committee of Ways and Means to effect these purposes. As much depends on the choice of this Committee, it has been deferred till this time.†

The location of a spot for a Library and Cabinet cannot be of so much consequence as their safety. An inland situation, experience convinces us, is more secure than a town accessible by sea; and, in a small town they will not be so much exposed to destruction by fire as they would be in a large one. Many valuable Libraries have been destroyed by fire in large cities; and many, so placed, are at this time greatly exposed to the like fatality! The philosopher and the historian, or any to whom the Library and Cabinet of this Society may be useful, will not greatly regret the distance which separates

* Since this Communication was made, the National Government has ordered its Laws, &c. to be sent to the Society; and the Legislature of Massachusetts have directed the Secretary of the State to furnish the Institution with two copies of all their laws and other publications, which they now have, or may hereafter have. It is hoped the Society will experience like indulgence from the Legislatures of the other States.

† A Committee of Ways and Means was chosen at this meeting, as follows:—WILLIAM PAYNE, M. D. SAMUEL J. PRESCOTT, Esq. BENJAMIN RUSSELL, Esq. Rev. WILLIAM BENTLEY, Hon. EDWARD BANGS, together with such others as the President and Council shall appoint.

them from the objects of their pursuit, if they can but eventually obtain in one place, what, otherwise, they would have to seek in many.

I cannot presume, that I have stated the best methods to be adopted for making this Society what we all wish it to be; but, from a variety of suggestions for the benefit of the institution, some may be matured so as to be productive of usefulness.

I have the honour to be,

The Society's faithful Servant,

ISAIAH THOMAS.

Boston, October 24, 1814.

OFFICERS

Of the American Antiquarian Society, elected since Oct. 1814.

COUNSELLOR,

For the State of NEWYORK, Hon. DE WITT CLINTON, LL. D.

RECEIVING OFFICERS.

For the State of NEWYORK, JOHN WAKEFIELD FRANCIS, M. D.

For the State of RHODE ISLAND, WILLIAM WILKINSON, Esq.

ERRATA.

In the pamphlet containing the List of Articles presented to the Society, 18th line from the bottom of page 26, should read thus, "used by Sir Walter Raleigh;" and given by Governour Phipps to the Rev. Dr. Increase Mather.—Page 27, line 5, for "James" read William.

LIST OF OFFICERS

AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE

American Antiquarian Society.

OCTOBER 24, 1814.

[Annual Meetings for the choice of Officers are held in Boston on the 24th of October.]

OFFICERS for the present Year, 1814.

PRESIDENT.

ISAIAH THOMAS, Esq. of Worcester.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

WILLIAM DANDRIDGE PECK, Profes. Univer. Camb.

WILLIAM PAINE, M. D. Worcester.

COUNSELLORS.

Hon. TIMOTHY BIGELOW, Medford.

Rev. AARON BANCROFT, D. D. Worcester.

Hon. EDWARD BANGS, do.

SAMUEL JACKSON PRESCOTT, Esq. Boston.

Rev. WILLIAM BENTLEY, Salem.

Dr. REDFORD WEBSTER, Boston.

BENJAMIN RUSSELL, Esq. do.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.

Rev. THADDEUS MASON HARRIS, D. D. Dorchester.

Rev. WILLIAM JENKS, Profes. Bowdoin College.

SAMUEL M. BURNSIDE, Esq. Worcester.

TREASURER.

Mr. ISAIAH THOMAS, Jun. Boston.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

Hon. OLIVER FISKE, Worcester.

ASSISTANT RECORDING SECRETARY.

JOHN LATHROP, Jun. Esq. Boston.

LIBRARIAN AND CABINET KEEPER.

Mr. SAMUEL JENNISON, Jun. Worcester.

MEMBERS.

[Arranged Alphabetically.]

[Those names to which no state is affixed, are of Massachusetts.—Members to whose names this mark (*) is affixed, are deceased.]

- *Rev. John Lovejoy Abbot, Boston.
- Hon. John Adams, L.L. D. Quincy, late President of the United States.
- Hon. John Quincy Adams, L.L. D. Boston, Minister to the Court of Russia.
- Nathaniel Adams, Esq. Portsmouth, Newhampshire.
- Ebenezer Adams, Esq. Profes. Dartmouth University, Hanover, Newhampshire.
- Rev. Timothy Alden, Newyork.
- Rev. William Allen, Pittsfield.
- Rev. Burgiss Alison, D. D. Burlington, Newjersey.
- Mr. Ebenezer Turell Andrews, Boston.]
- Rev. Jesse Appleton, D. D. President Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

- Hon. Loammi Baldwin, Esq. Cambridge.
- Rev. Aaron Bancroft, D. D. Worcester.
- Hon. Edward Bangs, Worcester.
- Benjamin Smith Barton, M. D. Professor University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- William Barton, Esq. Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- Hon. Josiah Bartlett, Charlestown.
- Hon. William Baylies, Bridgewater.
- Hon. Egbert Benson, L.L. D. Newyork.
- Rev. William Bentley, Salem.
- Hon. Timothy Bigelow, Speaker House of Repre. Mass.
- Hon. Abijah Bigelow, Leominster.
- Abraham Biglow, Esq. Cambridge.
- William Biglow, A. M. Boston.
- Hon. Francis Blake, Worcester.
- Gen. Joseph Bloomfield, Newjersey.
- John G. Bogert, Esq. Russian Consul, Newyork.
- Mr. William Bond, Dorchester.

- Hon. Elias Boudinot, L.L.D. Burlington, Newjersey.
Hon. Elisha Boudinot, Newjersey.
Hon. Jabez Bowen, L.L. D. Providence, Rhodeisland.
Pardon Bowen, M. D. Providence, Rhodeisland.
John Leeds Bozman, Esq. Maryland.
Oliver Bray, Esq. Portland.
Samuel Willard Bridgham, Esq. Attorney General, Providence, Rhodeisland.
Hon. Elijah Brigham, Westborough.
Hon. Nicholas Brown, Providence, Rhodeisland.
Hon. James Brown, Neworleans, Louisiana.
Rev. Francis Brown, Northyarmouth.
Samuel M. Burnside, Esq. Worcester.
Rev. Jonathan Burr, Sandwich.
- Rev. Samuel Cary, Boston.
Hon. Christopher Grant Champlin, Newport, Rhodeisland.
Hon. Langdon Cheeves, Speaker Congress, Charleston, Southcarolina.
Rev. John Chester, Hudson, Newyork.
His Excellency Governoour William Clark, Missouri Ter.
Dr. Abraham Clark, Newark, Newjersey.
Hon. Dewitt Clinton, L.L. D. Newyork.
Hon. David Cobb, Goldsborough.
Rev. Charles Coffin, D. D. President of Greenville College, Tennessee.
Rosseter Cotton, Esq. Plymouth.
Gen. John Noble Cumming, Newark, Newjersey.
Hon. William Cranch, Chief Justice, Columbia District, Alexandria.
Rev. Manasseh Cutler, L.L. D. Hamilton.
Hon. Samuel W. Dana, Middletown, Connecticut.
Aaron Davis, Esq. Roxbury.
Hon. Elias Hasket Derby, Charlestown.
Elias Dinsmore, Esq. Agent of the United States to the Choctaw Nation.
Rev. Timothy Dwight, D.D. L.L. D. President of Yale College, Connecticut.

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Edmund Dwight, Esq. Springfield.

Hon. Christopher Daniel Ebeling, Professor, Hamburg, Europe.

Hon. William Ellery, Newport, Rhodeisland.
Simon Elliot, Esq. Newton.

John Farrar, Professor University, Cambridge.

Hon. Oliver Fiske, Worcester.

Moses Fiske, Esq. Tennessee.

Rev. Ebenezer Fitch, D.D. President Williams College,
Williamstown.

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Robert Fulton, Esq. Newyork.

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Hon. William Gaston, Raleigh, Northcarolina.

Ebenezer Gay, Esq. Hingham.

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His Excellency John Taylor Gilman, L.L. D. Governor of
Newhampshire, Exeter.

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Isaac Goodwin, Esq. Sterling.

Jacob Gourgas, Esq. Milton.

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Charles W. Green, Esq. Boston.

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Thomas Lloyd Halsey, Jun. Esq. Buenos Ayres, Spanish America.

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 Dr. Gad Hitchcock, Pembroke.
 Rev. Abiel Holmes, D. D. Cambridge.
 David Hosack, M. D. Newyork.
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 Mr. Samuel Jennison, Jun. Worcester.
 His Excellency William Jones, Gouvernor of Rhodeisland,
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 John M'Kesson, Esq. Newyork.
 Hon. Rufus King, Jamaica, Longisland, Newyork.
 Rev. John Thornton Kirkland, D.D. L.I..D. President Har-
 vard University, Cambridge.
 Samuel Lorenzo Knapp, Esq. Newburyport. Ind. Missionary.

 Rev. John Lathrop, D. D. Boston.
 John Lathrop, Jun. Esq. Boston.
 Baron L'Escalier, Cor. Na. Inst. and Cons. Gen. France, at
 Newyork.
 Tobias Lear, Esq. Washington, Dis. Col.
 Hon. Levi Lincoln, Worcester.
 Hon. Levi Lincoln, Jun. do.

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Newyork.

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Rev. Charles Lowell, Boston.

Rev. Joseph Lyman, D. D. Hatfield.

Jonathan Hunt Lyman, Esq. Northampton.

Hon. John Marshall, L.L.D. Chief Justice, U. S. Virginia.

Hugh M'Call, Esq. Savannah, Georgia.

Nathaniel Maccarty, Esq. Worcester.

Rev. John Mitchell Mason, D. D. Provost Columbia Col-
lege, Newyork.

Dr. James Hugh MacCulloch, Baltimore, Maryland.

Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D. Newyork.

Hon. Elijah Hunt Mills, Northampton.

Hon. Samuel Latham Mitchell, Professor Nat. Hist. Univer.
Newyork.

Hon. Gouverneur Morris, Morrisania, Newyork.

Hon. Jeremiah Morrow, Montgomery, Ohio.

Rev. Jedediah Morse, D. D. Charlestown.

Rev. Henry Muhlenberg, D. D. Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Rev. William Nash, Westboylston.

Rev. Reuben Nason, Freeport.

Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D. President Union College, Schen-
nectady, Newyork.

Hon. Harrison Gray Otis, L.L.D. Boston.

William Paine, M. D. Worcester.

Hon. Nathaniel Paine, Worcester.

Frederick William Paine, East Indies.

Hon. Elijah Paine, L.L.D. Williamstown, Vermont.

* Hon. Theophilus Parsons, L.L.D. late Chief Justice, Mas-
sachusetts, Boston.

Rev. Elijah Parish, D. D. Byefield.

Hon. George Partridge, Duxbury,

Hon. Joseph Pearson, Salisbury, Northcarolina.
William Dandridge Peck, Professor University, Cambridge.
His Honour William l'hillips, Lt. Governour Mass. Boston.
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Southcarolina.
Major General Thomas Pinckney, Charleston, S. C.,
John Pintard, Esq. Newyork.
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Samuel Jackson Prescott, Esq. Boston.
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Hon. Josiah Quincy, Quincy.
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Hon. John Read, Yarmouth.
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Richard Rush, Esq. Attorney General United States, Wash
ington, Dis. Col.
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tory, Natches.
Eppes Sargent, Esq. Boston.
Samuel Savage, M. D. Barnstable.
Rev. Daniel Clark Sanders, D. D. President Vermont Uni-
versity, Burlington.
David Scudder, Esq. Barnstable.
James Seaver, Esq. Kingston.
* Hon. Samuel Sewall, L.L. D. late Chief Justice, Mass.
Hon. David Sewall, York,
William Smith Shaw, Esq. Boston.
William Sheldon, Esq. Jamaica, W. I.
Benjamin Silliman, Professor Yale College, Newhaven, Conn.
Hon. Daniel Sheffey, Wythe County, Virginia.
Roswell Shurtleff, Professor Dartmouth University, Hanover,
Newhampshire.
His Excellency John Cotton Smith, Governour of Connect-
icut, Sharon.

Hon. Jeremiah Smith, L.L. D. Chief Justice N. H. Exeter.
Rev. Isaac Smith, Boston.
Nathaniel Greenwood Snelling, Boston.
Mons. Sorrel, St. Mary, Attacapa, Louisiana.
Lyman Spalding, M. D. Newyork.
Horatio Gates Spafford, A. M. Albany, Newyork.
Nathaniel Spooner, Esq. Plymouth.
Hon. Joseph Story, Judge Supreme Court U. S. Salem.
Daniel Staniford, A. M. Boston.
Hon. William Stedman, Worcester.
His Excellency Caleb Strong, L.L. D. Governoeur Massachusetts, Northampton.
Lewis Strong, Esq. Northampton.
Rev. Joseph Sumner, D. D. Shrewsbury.
Charles Pinckney Sumner, Esq. Boston.

Peter Oxenbridge Thacher, Esq. Boston.
Hon. George Thatcher, Judge Supreme Court Massachusetts, Biddeford.
James Thatcher, M. D. Plymouth.
Caleb Thaxter, Esq. Hingham.
Isaiah Thomas, Esq. Worcester.
Hon. Joshua Thomas, Plymouth.
Mr. Isaiah Thomas, Jun. Boston.
Hon. Charles Thomson, L.L. D. Philadelphia.
Dr. Abraham Rand Thompson, Charlestown.
Jonathan Thompson, Esq. Natches, Mississippi Territory.
Joseph Tilden, Esq. Boston.
Nicholas Tillinghast, Esq. Taunton.
His Excellency Daniel D. Tompkins, Governoeur of Newyork.
Capt. Benjamin Trevett, U. States navy, now at St. Mary's, Georgia.
Samuel Russel Trevett, M. D. Newyork.
Rev. Benjamin Trumbull, D. D. Connecticut.
Hon. William Tudor, Boston.
Hon. Dudley Atkins Tyng, Cambridge.

Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer, Albany, Newyork.
Benjamin Vaughan, Esq. L.L. D. Hallowell.

Hon. Bushrod Washington, Judge Supreme Court U. States,
Mount Vernon, Virginia.

James T. B. Watt, M. D. Jamaica, W. I.
Thomas Walter Ward, Esq. Shrewsbury.

Mr. Thomas Walcutt, Boston.

Noah Webster, Esq. Amherst.

Hon. Daniel Webster, Portsmouth, Newhampshire.

Dr. Redford Webster, Boston.

Mr. William Wells, Boston.

Hon. John Wheelock, L.L. D. President Dartmouth University, Hanover, Newhampshire.

Hon. Kilborn Whitman, Pembroke.

Dr. Jonas Whitman, Barnstable.

Isaac Winslow Whitman, Esq. Brewster.

Hon. Hugh Williamson, L.L.D. Newyork.

William Wilkinson, Esq. Providence, Rhodeisland.

Rev. Samuel Willard, Deerfield.

Sidney Willard, Professor University, Cambridge.

Timothy Williams, Esq. Boston.

Hon. James Winthrop, Cambridge.

Hon. William Winthrop, Cambridge.

Thomas Lindall Winthrop, Esq. Boston.

Hon. Oliver Wolcott, L.L.D. Newyork.

Dr. Isaac Winslow, Marshfield.

John Winslow, Esq. Hanover.

*At a stated meeting of the American Antiquarian Society,
held at the Exchange Coffeehouse in Boston, June 1, 1814,
On motion of Samuel J. Prescott, Esq.*

VOTED, unanimously, that the Eighth Article of the Laws
of this Society be amended, and stand as follows, viz.

ARTICLE VIII.

Each member, *residing within this Commonwealth*, shall an-
nually pay to the Treasurer of said Society, at the meeting in
October, two dollars, towards a fund *for the necessary contingent expenses of the Society*; and any such member, who
shall neglect to pay said annual tax, and shall suffer himself to
be in arrear for three annual taxes, after having been called
upon by the Treasurer in person, or by written order, shall
be considered as having abdicated his interest in the Society,
and no longer a member.

A true Copy from the records,

Attest, SAMUEL M. BURNSIDE, Rec. Sec'y,

ARTICLES

P R E S E N T E D

TO THE SOCIETY.

BOOKS.

SOON after the Society became organized, the PRESIDENT presented to the institution his Library, valued at Four Thousand Dollars.

Since October, 1813, BOOKS have been presented by the persons, whose names are hereafter mentioned, viz.

William Wilkinson, Esq, of Providence,	13 : 00
C. P. Sumner, Esq. of Boston,	1 : 50
Rev. Timothy Alden, of Newyork,	1 : 50
Hon. William Stedman, Esq. Worcester,	10 : 00
William Paine, M. D. do.	6 : 00
Edward Bangs, Esq. do.	11 : 13
Nathaniel Maccarty, Esq. do.	18 : 48
Rev. Dr. Aaron Bancroft, do.	3 : 00
Isaiah Thomas, Jun. Boston,	5 : 98
James Wilson, Esq. Worcester,	8 : 60
Rev. Dr. Jedediah Morse, Charlestown, Mass. his Appeal,	1 . 25
Miss Hannah Adams, of Boston, her remarks on the Appeal,	0 : 50
Rev. J. L. Abbot, late of Boston, a Bible, in Latin, small 4to. printed in Venice, 1487, and Hadriani Florentii de Trajecto &c. printed in Paris. 1527,	34 : 00
Rev. Dr. Joseph Sumner, of Shrewsbury,	6 : 00
Mr. George Grafton, of Worcester,	0 : 50
Mrs. Hannah Crocker, of Boston, part of the remains of the ancient Library, formerly belonging to the Rev. Drs. Increase, Cotton and Samuel Mather, (all deceased) value	800 : 00

The President, the residue of the remains of the ancient Library, formerly belonging to the Rev. Drs. I. C. and S. Mather; and a large number of other Books ancient and modern, value

1312 : 57

Rev. Joseph M'Kean, of Cambridge, his two fast sermons.

Rev. William Jenks, of Bath, his Eulogy on the death of the Hon. Mr. Bowdoin.

Rev. Professor Chamberlain, Vermont University, his tract on the Iroquois Language, in English and Indian.

Hon. Josiah Bartlett, of Charlestown, Mass. his Medical Tracts.

Samuel J. Prescott, Esq. of Boston, Catalogue of the Fraternity of PHI BETA KAPPA.

John Lathrop, Jun. Esq. of Boston, his Speech of Canonicus, &c. a Poem, printed in Calcutta.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bliss, of Providence, two volumes of Almanacks, from 1677 to 1755.

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES,

Since October, 1813.

Massachusetts Spy, weekly,	presented by I. T. of Worcester.
Massachusetts Centinel, semiweekly,	Benjamin Russell, Esq.
Independent Chronicle, do.	Messrs. Adams and Rhoades.
Rhode Island American, do.	Messrs. Miller, Goddard & Mann.
Providence Gazette, weekly,	late John Carter, Esq.
National Ægis, do.	Mr. Henry Rogers.
Port Folio, monthly,	I. T. of Worcester.
Polyanthos, do.	do.

MANUSCRIPTS,

Since Oct. 1813.

Dr. Wilkinson's Sermons, or Exposition of the Revelation of St. John. In Eleven large 4to volumes, purchased in London, by Dr. Increase Mather, in 1691, cost at that time £10 sterling.

Presented by Mrs. Hannah Crocker.

Upwards of 900 single sermons, written by the late Drs. Mather.

Several small volumes, being notes of Sermons, in the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth century; Diaries of Drs. Increase and Cotton Mather; two Treatises respecting the Pope's

authority, and Mass ; written in Fayal, in 1682. And several other MS. books written about that time, with a number of Original Letters, written in the last century, to the Mathers, by Dr. Watts, and other ministers in England and elsewhere;

Mrs. Hannah Crocker.
Heads of Sermons, taken at a Church in Boston, 1680.

Three Letters from a person calling herself the Princess Brotenburg. Isaiah Thomas Andrews.
Hon. William Stedman.

Ancient Grant of Nantucket by the Governour of Newyork, written at the time of the Grant. Dr. Samuel Adams.

Voyage to Greenland in 1613, written at that time, with drawings, folio. Mr. John Howland, of Providence.

Compilation of Historical Tracts, in British America, written above 100 years ago. Hon. Thomas Jefferson, of Monticello.

Dr. Trumbull's MS. of his History of Conn. Rev. Dr. J. Morse. A sermon on the affairs of the country, and a Letter, both written in 1720. Dr. Samuel Adams.

System of Theology, by Mr. Richardson, written in 1613, folio, I. Thomas, Esq. of Worcester.

An Orderly Book of one of the Mass. Regiments, in 1783. Benjamin Russell, Esq.

System of Physicks : written by Rev. Charles Morton, of Charlestown, Mass. 1686.—Account of a Mermaid! said to be seen between Milford, and Branford in Conn. Feb. 22, 1716, by three men who certify the account.—Curiosa Americana, 50 pages small 4to; together with several other MS. books, written in the 17th and the beginning of the 18th century ; and a number of original Letters from gentlemen in England to persons of distinction in America, written about these periods. I. Thomas, Esq. of Worcester.

Original Copy of an Almanack, for 1792, in the hand writing of the Author, a negro man, in Maryland, by the name of Banniker.

William Goddard, Esq. Providence.

Two Deeds, written on parchment, and another MS. all written in 1688. Miss Rebecca Calef, of Boston.

COINS, MEDALS, AND PAPER MONEY,

Since October, 1813.

40 Pieces of Silver Coin, and 1 of Copper. Rev. Dr. J. Morse.

3 Pieces of American gold ; 48 pieces of Silver and 79 of Copper, of various European nations. I. Thomas, Esq. Worcester.

1 Silver Coin of Queen Anne, 1708. Stephen Codman, Esq.

3 Silver, and 47 Copper Coins, of Europe, &c.

Late Rev. J. L. Abbot, of Boston.

D

VARIOUS ARTICLES,

Since Oct. 1813.

A well engraved Print of Christoval Colon, [Columbus] copied from an original Picture, preserved in his family; in a handsome gilt frame, $14\frac{1}{2}$ by $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Thomas L. Halsey, Esq. of Providence,
A whole length well engraved Likeness of Columbus, representing his landing on the shore of the New World, on his first discovery of it, October 12, O. S. 1492. In a handsome gilt frame, 30 by 22 inches. Mrs. Elizabeth Andrews, of Boston.
Portrait of the late Charles Paxton, Esq. Painted by Copeley.

Portrait of the late Charles Paxton, Esq. Painted by Copeley.

By a Lady.

**A Silver Trinket for a Lady, supposed to be made 700 years ago,
and a number of Maps, and Plans of European cities.**

I. T. Worcester,

Arms of the Mather family in a small frame; and part of the tobacco box used by Sir Walter Raleigh, and given by him to Gov. Phipps. Mrs. Hannah Crocker.

Chinese Pass for the ship John Jay, from Canton to Providence.

Late John Carter, Esq. of Providence.

Two small pieces of Palm Leaf, on which are written with a stylus,
several lines in the Malayan language. Win. Goddard, Esq. Prev.

A Highland Dagger, used in the rebellion in Scotland, in 1745. with some account of it. Mr. Nathaniel R. Pope, of Boston.

Half of an Indian Stone Bowl. Hon. Edward Bangs, of Worcester. Several Indian Utensils, dug up near the Long Pond in Worcester.

Dr. John Green, of Worcester.
Indian Utensils: an axe, hatchet, &c. Rev. Dr. F. Parish, Bufield

Indian Utensils; an axe, hatchet, &c. Rev. Dr. E. Parish, Byfield.
An Elegant portable Trunk, for the deposit of the Treasurer's books
and papers.

A four feet map of the River St. John.

Thomas Williams, Esq., of Roxbury.

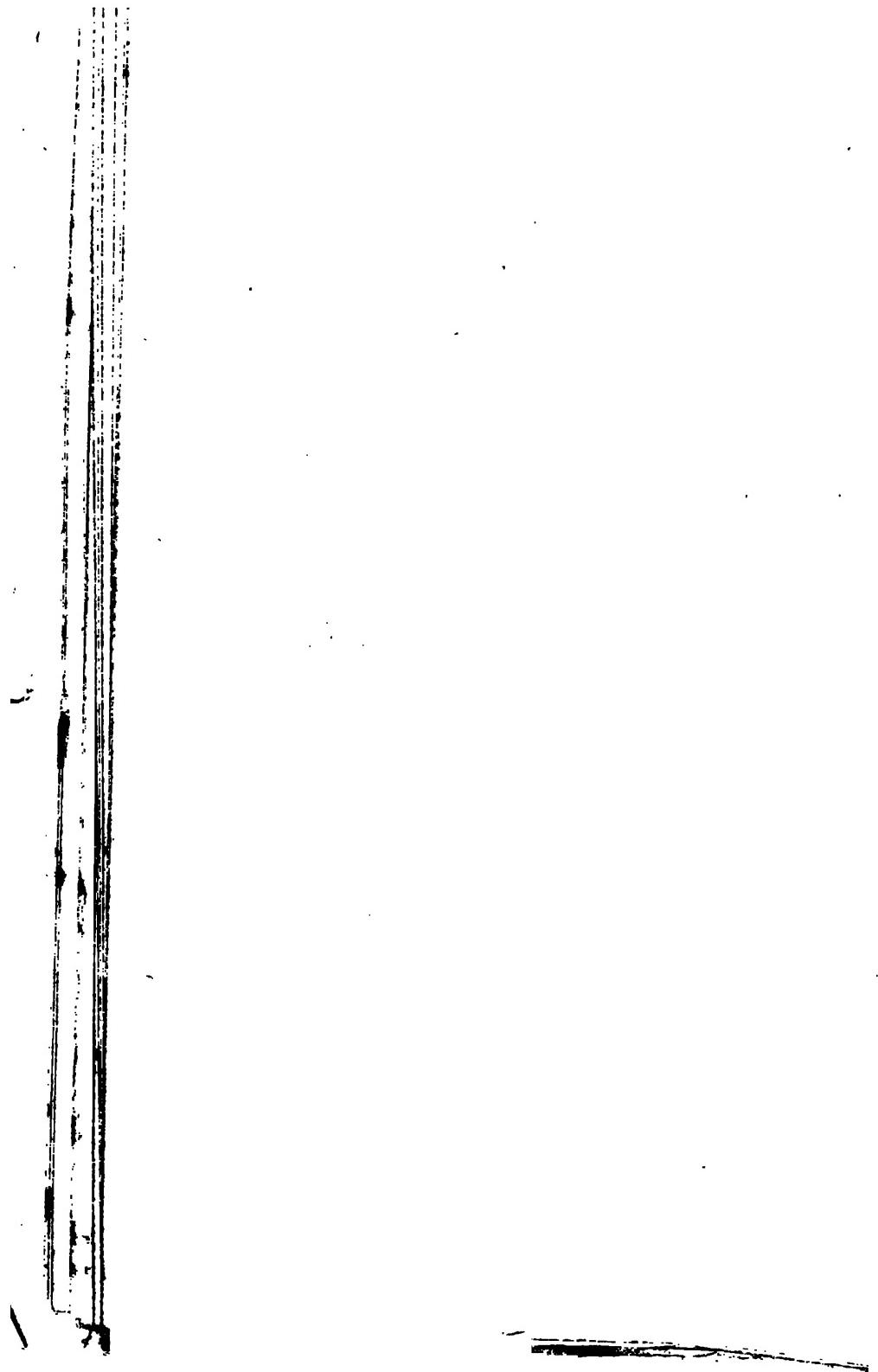
Thomas Williams, Esq. of Roxbury.
Abstract of the Bill of Mortality for the town of Boston, for 1818.

* * Articles intended to be presented to the Library or Museum of the American Antiquarian Society, may be lodged at No. 6, Marlborough Street, Boston, where they will be received, carefully attended to, and forwarded to the Librarian and Cabinet Keeper. James Wilkinson, Esq. of Providence, will also receive articles presented to the Society.

—
* * Magazines, Newspapers, Almanacks, or any Books published in the country, especially such as were early printed in North and South America, or in the WestIndia Islands, will be very acceptable to the Society.

—
* * Wanted for the Society The Massachusetts Register, printed by J. Fleming, in Boston, for the years 1770, 1771, 1772, and 1773.

—
Gentlemen residing in any part of the Continent, or the islands adjacent, who may make, or may have made discoveries of any Antiquities of this Country, are respectfully requested to communicate accounts of them to the President, or to either of the Corresponding Secretaries of the American Antiquarian Society.



AN

ADDRESS

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

PRONOUNCED IN

KING'S CHAPEL, BOSTON,

ON

THEIR THIRD ANNIVERSARY,

October 23, 1815.

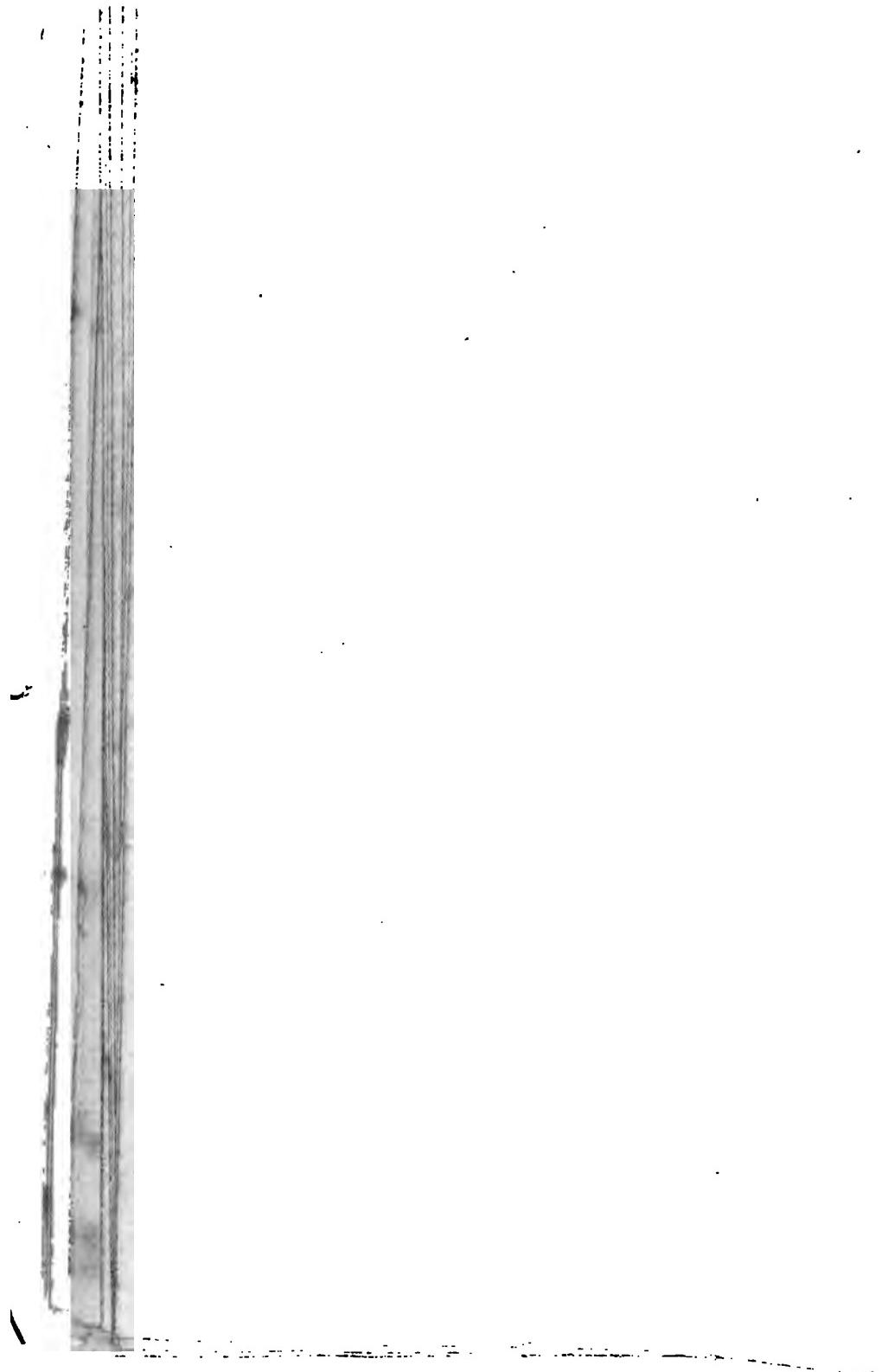
BY WILLIAM PAINE, M. D.

Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians in London, A. A. S. M. M. S. and Vice-President of
the American Antiquarian Society.

WORCESTER, (Mass.)

PRINTED BY WILLIAM MANNING.

1815.



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its fragrance round her, when she left, says Purchas, a paradise of plenty and pleasure, in the family of her father, the Earl of Lincoln, and dared a wilderness of wants ; and, though supported by great fortitude, she was unable to resist their pressure, or surmount the difficulties she was surrounded with, and died at Salem, soon after her arrival. What feelings, what reflections, does this object tend to excite ! I could wish to retain all the sensations I now experience, and to treasure up, amidst these scenes, something of that melancholy feeling which enchant me ! Yes, I love to retire back to past ages.

This is our third anniversary. It is unnecessary—it would be superfluous—at this time, to give the origin, and recapitulate the objects of this Society. They were declared in the Preamble to the Act of Incorporation ; they have been fully stated in the luminous Communication of our President, and clearly and ably detailed in the first and second Address delivered before you. This ground has been already gleaned, and I find it difficult to gather a straw for my sheaf. But with satisfaction I am able to congratulate you upon the general success of the Institution. Since our last meeting, we requested, and have obtained, from the Government of the United States, and from the Government of this Commonwealth, copies of their Journals and Publick Documents, which have been received by our President, for the use of the Society. Their ready compliance is peculiarly gratifying, and induces us to cherish the expectation that we shall

be deemed worthy of their future patronage. We have likewise had many respectable names added to the column of our members; many books to our Library, and articles to our Museum. The present state of the Institution may satisfy its members, that it is permanently established; that it is destined to be useful, and will have the countenance of the genuine lovers of history and literature. The only check to the rapid success of the Society, is our poverty. We want a house, and a permanent fund for the support of our Librarian and Cabinet Keeper. How to obtain that house and this fund, I know not.

I wish it to be distinctly understood, that the American Antiquarian Society is founded on the most liberal principles—is of no sect or party—has no local views—it embraces the continent. It solicits, and would gratefully receive, communications from every part of the world, which have a tendency to elucidate the events of past ages, or excite a spirit of research for information which would be conducive to the happiness of the present or subsequent age. It is to be wished, that every member of this Society would endeavour, by the most active exertions, to add something to the common stock of antiquarian literature; and may we, my respectable associates, never lose sight of the truly valuable purposes of our Institution. I wish, particularly, to urge the propriety, nay, the necessity, of procuring and preserving every antient manuscript and book of importance. And for this reason—that no one thing can so faithfully paint

the state of society, as such documents ; for the dialect and orthography of languages are continually fluctuating.

Having made these introductory remarks, you will have the goodness to indulge me in an address, diffusive, but not foreign to the objects of the Society.

I presume not to instruct, but I wish to remind you, in a summary manner, of the state of Europe at the discovery of America by COLUMBUS ; to point out the pleasures and advantages which result from the study of history ; and notice the first European colony in New-England.

It has been observed by the historians of the fifteenth century, that, during that period, mankind made greater progress in exploring the state of the habitable world, than in all the ages which had then elapsed. At this time, the revival of letters, the reformation in religion, and the revolution in the modes of learning and philosophy, gave mankind a higher sense of their importance. In almost every part of Europe, efforts were then making for the establishment of civil and religious liberty. Circumstances like these, taking place at that period, concurred to render the discovery of America an illustrious epoch in the history of the world. During the last seven years of that century, a New World was discovered in the West. In the East, unknown seas and countries were found out, and a communication, long desired, but hitherto concealed, was opened, by doubling the Cape of Good

Hope between Europe and India. In comparison with events so wonderful and unexpected, all that had been before deemed great or splendid, faded and disappeared. This discovery awakened curiosity, and enlarged the ideas and desires of men. Vast objects now presented themselves. The human mind, excited and interested by the prospect, engaged with ardour in pursuit of them, and exerted its active powers in a new direction; the spirit of enterprize began to operate extensively, and many were ready to test the truth of a probable theory by the most dauntless experiments.

By the universal consent of nations, this new quarter of the world has been called America. The bold pretensions of a fortunate impostor robbed **COLUMBUS** of a distinction that belonged to him. The name of **AMERIGO** has supplanted that of **COLUMBUS**. It is now too late to redress this act of injustice—it has received the sanction of Time.

It is a very singular fact, that the three great European powers which formerly possessed almost all the New World, were indebted for the discovery of their American possessions to Italians:—Spain to **COLUMBUS**, a Genoese; France to **VERAZZANO**, a Florentine; England to the **CABOTS**, Venetians. The Italians at that period, in point of maritime knowledge and extensive experience in navigation, were unquestionably very superiour to the rest of Europe. Of the descendants of **COLUMBUS** and **VERAZZANO** I am ignorant; but the name of **CABOT** is still heard amongst us. To me, it was ever dear! and one of his descendants still exists,

who has been as active in saving, as his ancestors were in discovering a country.

The character of **COLUMBUS** has been handed down to us in a manner well calculated to arrest our attention, and excite our admiration. Few men have distinguished themselves by greater ardour and perseverance. Possessed of a vigorous mind, he was indefatigable in his pursuits. His life has frequently been written; yet I have thought the following concise biographical notice of him not out of place.

He is represented as grave, though courteous in his deportment, circumspect in his words and actions, irreproachable in his morals, and exemplary in his attention to all the duties and functions of religion. He joined to the ardent temper and inventive genius of a projector, virtues of another species, which are rarely united with them. He possessed a thorough knowledge of mankind, an insinuating address, a patient perseverance in executing any plan, the most perfect government of his own passions, and a talent of acquiring ascendancy over other men. All these qualities, which formed him for command, were accompanied with that superior knowledge of his profession, which begets confidence in times of danger and difficulty. After much thought and great study, he matured his plan, which resulted from diligent inquiry and patient comparison; and being well convinced of its practicability, his enthusiasm was not to be cooled by delay, or damped by disappointment. Any man

of less ardour would have abandoned his plan ; for his discouragements were various and repeated.

But the brave and virtuous conquer difficulties by daring to oppose them ; and nature seems to have given him that elasticity of mind which rises higher at the rebound. Twenty years was this great man employed in preparing for this voyage, which he completed in thirty six days, without any extraordinary circumstance intervehing; excepting that the variation of the magnetick needle was, to their great surprize, noticed. In all probability, we are indebted, for the discovery of America at that period, to the firmness of **ISABELLA**, Queen of Spain, in the support of **COLUMBUS**. Whilst she lived, **COLUMBUS** had a friend who was ever ready to throw her shield before him for his protection, and which she was frequently obliged to do. On this illustrious woman the Spanish historians delight to bestow the highest encomiums. They represent her no less eminent for virtue than wisdom ; and whether she is considered as a Queen, wife, or mother, she is still entitled to the highest praise.—It is painful to reflect on the subsequent misfortunes of **COLUMBUS**. His elevation to high rank, and the hereditary honours which he obtained from the court of Spain, excited envy, and created enemies, which laid him in chains, and embittered the last moments of his life.—It is not rank, it is character alone, that interests posterity ; and the name of **COLUMBUS** will command the admiration of ages, and probably outlive the power of the king.

dom that he aggrandized by his discoveries. Over his name oblivion will never throw her mantle.— Peace to his manes !

As there is no pursuit more delightful than the study of history, so there is no history so necessary and useful as that of our own country, which may be accurately traced, from its first discovery to this day, and whatever relates to it may be ascertained by the most authentick documents. Not so the history of ancient nations, which is so much involved in fable, that its study yields to the inquiring mind but little satisfaction. Its pages are read, but read rather to gratify curiosity, than to gain instruction. Indeed, we meet with such extraordinary events in the annals of mankind, as make us frequently doubt the most authentick history. In opposition to the above remark, I must except the history of the Jews. With respect to the writings of the Jews, Wakefield observes, that it is altogether undeniable, and it is a truth of the utmost weight and magnitude, that our accumulated discoveries in science and philosophy, and all our progress in other parts of knowledge, have not enabled the wisest of the moderns to excel the noble sentiments conveyed in the didacticks and the decretional compositions of the Old Testament—compositions, many of which existed, without dispute, before the earliest writings of heathen antiquity, and at a period, when even those illustrious instructors of mankind, the Greeks and the Romans, were barbarous and unknown. I confess, it would gratify me much, to be informed in what manner the contemners of the

Jews and of the Mosaick system account for this singular phenomenon.

It is to be regretted that historians and travellers have not taken the hero of Homer as their model. His advice to Ulysses, at the opening of the Odyssey, treasured up and attended to, would give authenticity to their narrations.

“Wand’ring from clime to clime, observant stray’d,
“Their manners noted, and their states survey’d.”

Effectively, nothing is more instructive than history, if written with useful views, with good sense, and mixed with moral reflections given in few words, and rising naturally from facts,

In all ages, mankind have had a great esteem and veneration for antiquity. No object operates more powerfully on that curiosity which is the great excitement to knowledge, than antiquities of every species. If some have followed this study with too much minuteness, or, impelled by an enthusiasm naturally growing out of a favourite pursuit, have rated antiquities above their just value, their weakness cannot attaint the good sense of others, nor derogate from the advantage of liberal and rational inquiries. By the study of antiquity, history is frequently explained, and sometimes corrected. Facts and manners are rendered more distinct, and their impressions become infinitely stronger and more lasting. Yet we must consider Antiquarianism as the younger sister of History, less sedate and more fanciful, and apt to be enamoured of the fable.

of Time, by looking so frequently upon it. But let not that be the conduct of her more sober disciples. Let not the sensible antiquary disgrace himself and his profession, by admiring greatly, and applauding fondly, what is only antient. The pencil of age may justly be allowed to throw a shade of respectability, and to diffuse an air of venerableness over the productions of very antient art. And we may appeal to the native feelings of every intelligent beholder for the truth of this observation. But this is all that can be allowed to the mere influence of time ; and the antiquary that once oversteps this reasonable limit, sacrifices the dignity of sentiment to the dreams of antiquarianism, and gives up the realities of history to the fable of imagination. But we ought not, from the abuse of a science, to be induced to neglect its application to rational and useful purposes ; and that such purposes may be accomplished by the study of antiquities, is sufficiently evinced by the valuable information which has been drawn from this source, respecting the history, laws, religion, manners and literature of a great number of antient nations. This study includes a vast variety of important particulars, too numerous to be mentioned on this occasion ; although it is to be regretted, that on many branches of inquiry which come within the province of the antiquary, he must content himself with conjecture and hypothesis, instead of the certain testimony of fact. Competent and credible evidence ought, therefore, to be insisted on by every student of antiquity, and his vigilance against deception should be constant and unremitted.

The study of antiquity will ever rank amongst the higher pleasures of human life, and its real votaries amongst the most happy of intellectual beings. Fortunately, this is one of those few pursuits, in which delight and instruction are most happily united. No study affords a more ample store of varied information and liberal knowledge ; and its resources may be said with propriety to be inexhaustible. The interesting objects which open to the view of the antiquary, replenish his mind with new ideas ; and such pursuits make life pass as pleasantly as the uncertainty of human events allows to man. In tracing the productions of nature, and the origin and refinement of art, the antiquary enjoys the highest pleasure, and is never wearied in exploring the "*days of other years,*" over which fancy delights to hover. Who can possess the faculty of thinking, and not wish to know the origin and the end of this world ?

Permit me to notice our ancestors. Persecuted at home, they sought and obtained protection in the United Provinces. Yet the love of country was so strong, that they preferred being under the government of England ; and, therefore, those of them who did not emigrate to this country, returned to Plymouth, one hundred and twenty eight years after the discovery of America. When we speak of our ancestors, we need not blush. Indeed, I feel an honest pride in thinking of them. Many of them were respectable in point of property, many well educated, indeed learned, and all of them pious and exemplary. At the time of the emigration of

ance of provisions ; bartered with them furs for their European goods ; and sold them lands for a possession. Had a single tribe viewed, at first, their European visitors as invaders of their country, and entertained jealousies of their increasing numbers, influence and power, they might, and probably would, have exterminated them on their first landing. But jealousies of this nature did not prevail amongst the Indians in any very dangerous form, until the colony had gained strength, and were able to divert the machinations, or repel the efforts of the savages for their destruction. And when a confederacy of the Indian tribes was formed, which appeared to threaten the very existence of the infant colony, the arm of God was their shield. At the expense of many lives, they broke the plans of their enemy, defeated them in their most secure haunts, and drove those that escaped the slaughter of the battle, spiritless from the land of their fathers. Their persons now appear not, their names are not spoken in the land which they once claimed as their inheritance, and probably no individual can now be found who understands the Indian idiom, in which our apostle ELIOT translated the Bible. Yet few, very few, says Charlevoix, comparatively speaking, perished by war ; but they have wasted, they have mouldered away, they have disappeared.

Whilst the retrospection of the interesting events which took place amongst the early settlers of this country, teaches us to look with veneration on the wonders which God did for their protection, we must commiserate the sufferings, and the extinc-

tion almost, of the Indian nations through an immense extent of country. It is true these nations were savages ; they were destitute of industry and providence ; but they were patient under the severest privations, and bore, occasionally, with fortitude the greatest fatigue. They possessed not the comforts of improved society ; at the same time, the evils of luxury and habitual intemperance were unknown to them. To quarrels respecting property, they were strangers. The God of Nature had stocked the forest with animals, and filled the lakes and streams with fish ; these were the property of all. Upon the banks of rivers, and on the shores of the sea, they erected their temporary shelters, and partook of the blessing of the Parent of Nature. They were content with their mode of life ; they coveted no better. They were ignorant of many of the sublime doctrines of religion ; but they had some apprehension of the Great Spirit, and they paid their adoration to him, by such sacrifices as they thought would be acceptable. Their passions were not disciplined by the precepts of religion, nor regulated by the laws of a well ordered society. An enemy they condemned to torture ; with a friend and a stranger, they were ready to divide their last morsel. Such was the race of men that inhabited this land, when it was discovered by the European adventurers ; and in them we have a perfect picture of savage life. The character of the Indians seems to have been well understood by our ancestors, who noticed that they possessed extraordinary valour, but without conduct ; and tho-

love of freedom, without the spirit of union. They knew not the modes and habits that prevailed in the Old World, and they did not generally foresee the consequence of the settlement of white people amongst them. Instead, therefore, of uniting to repel or destroy the new colony, they rather aided, as we have seen, their settlement. But one amongst them arose, who had discernment to comprehend the interest of his nation, and to predict danger from the permanent establishment of foreigners. Perhaps those who handed down to us the history of King Philip's War, bore a part in its terrors, its dangers, or losses; every thing, therefore, which reaches us respecting him, passes through the medium of prejudice. But could we survey the actions of King Philip with the eye of impartiality, his character would excite our veneration, and his misfortunes call forth our commiseration. Philip, with the penetration of a statesman, saw the fatal policy of one individual tribe inviting the aid of the white men to conquer another, and predicted the successive ruin of the whole. With the feelings of a patriot, he adopted measures to drive from his country the common enemy; and with the resolution of a hero, he attempted their execution. By his lively representations, he formed distant and unfriendly tribes into an alliance, and made them parties in a war of extermination. Bloody, and for a long time doubtful, was the contest which ensued; but the whites ultimately prevailed. The patriot and the hero fell, and with him expired the hope of his country.—Thus, whilst

we are filled with admiration at the rapid growth of our country and the many improvements of our people, we cannot but mourn at the recollection that these are founded upon the ruin of another, which had a prior and a more natural right to the soil.

May the blessing of God descend, and rest upon the Indian nations which yet exist within the limits of the United States! May he succeed the laudable attempts which are made to bring them within the pale of civilized life, and give them the comforts of improved society. May their minds be imbued with the mild and peaceable spirit of the Gospel; and, under the influence of Christianity, may their hearts be softened and purified.

The zeal and courage by which our ancestors were animated, and the constancy with which they pursued their plan of emigrating to America, that they might here enjoy liberty of conscience and the blessing of freemen, is truly wonderful. And it is impossible, when we reflect, not to applaud the resolution with which it was executed. Represent to your imagination the feelings of those individuals, who were struggling with the affection which they bore to their friends and their native country, and with the desire to remove to far distant shores, that in solitude they might enjoy religious freedom, which was so unjustifiably denied them at home. Bound by a thousand ties to the spot in which they first drew their breath, attached to the place of their residence by the endearing connexions of relations and friends, by worldly ease and competency, how

strong must have been the motives which could have overpowered these affections—how urgent the causes which prevailed on the minds of these families, and induced them to break asunder their ties, to embark on an almost untried ocean, and to settle in a wilderness, where they were exposed to the fierceness of savage tribes, the rage of wild beasts, and the innumerable hardships of a new world! In all these trying scenes, our fathers trusted in God! His arm protected them amidst the perils of the ocean and the hazards of the wilderness.

The hardships and sufferings of the first settlers proved fatal to many of the Plymouth band; yet the survivors were strengthened by the arrival of new settlers. As the same cause which led to emigration continued to operate in England, fresh numbers were arriving every year, and multitudes, driven by oppression, found safety and protection in America,

Soon after, Massachusetts, and various other colonies, were established. The foundation of the colony of Massachusetts was laid in the year 1628. From that period to 1637, twenty one thousand two hundred men, women and children arrived as passengers in New England. In all probability, the population would have been greater, if the English government had not interposed its authority to prevent further emigration. “The wilderness and solitary places were made glad for them, and the desert blossomed as a rose.” “A little one has become a thousand, a small one a great Nation.”

In the year 1745, a remarkable interposition of Providence took place in favour of our country; a year in which the military spirit of New England was most successfully displayed, by the conquest of Louisbourg, in conjunction with a fleet of British ships. England and France being at war, the General Court of Massachusetts, by a majority of one vote, resolved to attempt its conquest. Louisbourg was a strong town on the Island of Cape Breton, which the French had been more than twenty years fortifying; and it had cost the crown of France more than six millions of dollars. This fortress, for its strength, was called the Gibraltar of America; in six weeks it surrendered to the forces of New England. When the troops entered the town, and examined its strength, they were surprised at their own prowess; and the inhabitants of our country with grateful hearts acknowledged the good providence of GOD, in the preservation of their army and the wonderful success of their arms. Sir WILLIAM PEPPERELL, who was the commander in chief, says, in his letter to Governour SHIRLEY, "The Almighty of a truth has been with us."

It has been generally considered, that the jealousy of the parent state was excited by this brilliant achievement.

The French government, after the capture of Louisbourg, became greatly alarmed for their colonies which bordered on New England. Therefore, in the next year, 1746, they fitted out a most

formidable armament, consisting of twenty ships of war, and more than 100 transports, filled, it is reported, with 10,000 disciplined troops, with a profusion of every kind of military store. The conquest of New England was the open and avowed object of this expedition. When the news arrived that this armament was approaching our coast, and that a British force for our protection was not expected, fear and consternation pervaded our land. The country possessed not adequate means of defence against the assault of such a force. In this case the protecting hand of God saved them. Ere the enemy reached the American seas, the French fleet was visited by a fatal sickness. Thousands of their men died, and the survivors became weak and spiritless. In this enfeebled state, the armament was overtaken by a most violent storm, and in the tempest was dispersed, and in consequence the expedition was totally defeated. The commander in chief died through vexation, or by poison administered by his own hand, and the second in command threw himself on his sword. In a shattered and dispersed condition the remaining armament returned to the French ports, and the English colonies were relieved from their apprehensions.

Never, observes the late Dr. Belknap, never was the hand of Providence more visible, than on this occasion. Never was a disappointment more severe on the side of an enemy, or a deliverance more complete without human aid, in favour of any country. Need I recount the favour of God to our country in their subsequent conflicts with the

French and Indian nations? These are more than can be numbered.

Less necessary is it to place before you the many signal favours during the revolutionary war with Great Britain. Baffled and discouraged in her scheme of subjugation, she proffered, and we accepted, the rich blessings of peace on the basis of national independence. You well remember, or your fathers have told you of the names, the trials, and the sufferings of those days, and the joys, the congratulations, and the devout gratitude, with which peace was received. The Lord of Hosts, who has so often appeared for the salvation of our country, lives, and is the same to-day, yesterday, and forever. The superintendence which he exerted over our fathers, is extended to us. Let us be attentive to the duties required of us, and then may we expect his protection. Let us call into remembrance, frequently, past times and events. Let us study the character of our American ancestors, and we shall find, that piety and patriotism, righteousness and sobriety, were the peculiar qualifications which rendered them the object of divine favour and protection.

“Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.”

“Though thy beginning was small, thy latter end should greatly increase.”

“For inquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers.”

"For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow."

"Shall not they teach thee, and tell thee, and utter words out of their heart?"

*Gentlemen of the Antient and Honourable
Artillery Company!**

AS an individual, (and I am positive I speak the sentiments of the Society) I am very much gratified by the honour you have done us, in meeting on this occasion. This event is peculiarly interesting to every American. Your corps is the oldest in America, and it this day unites with the first and the only incorporated Antiquarian Society on the continent, in celebrating the day on which our beloved country was discovered.

A most unequivocal evidence of your usefulness, and of the honourable principles by which your corps has been conducted, is, that it has existed one hundred and seventy seven years. I find, however, that it has been twice interrupted in its regular annual meeting. The first was from 1686 to 1691, during the administration of Sir EDMUND ANDROSS; and again, during the revolutionary war, from 1774 to 1786. Although many very important events have taken place in our country since the establishment of your corps, yet that has remained much the same. The motive for raising it was judicious, laudable and political. Our ancestors, with a fore-

* On this day, the Society was honoured by the attendance of the Antient and Honourable Artillery Company, who led the procession.

sight that invariably marked their conduct, early noticed the necessity of establishing a reputable military corps, to keep alive the knowledge possessed by many of the early emigrants. This gave rise to your company, which has given to our country many valuable and distinguished officers. Its reputation to this day has remained unsullied. Its ranks have been filled by citizens of respectability. It has ever been considered as an excellent military school, in which its members are perfected in tactics and correct discipline.

To belong to a corps thus distinguished, must be highly reputable to the man and to the soldier. I have some pride and great satisfaction in saying, that my grandfather, who resided at Worcester, had the honour to command the Antient and Honourable Artillery Company in the year 1736. To preserve and protect its honours, must excite the ambition and vigilance of the individuals which compose it. To hand down its character and its rights unimpaired, must be the wish of all. To you, Gentlemen, are committed all its honours, its rights and privileges; and no doubt can be entertained of your wisdom to preserve, and your skill to protect them, for the benefit of your successors.

Long may your corps continue to be the ornament and the pride of our country; and may our government be able to say, that so long as it exists, we can never want officers to head our armies, or men able and willing to repel invasion, execute the laws, and maintain publick order.

FINIS.

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OF THE
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

Elected October 23, 1815, for the Year ensuing.

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Vice Presidents.

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WILLIAM PAINE, M. D. Worcester.

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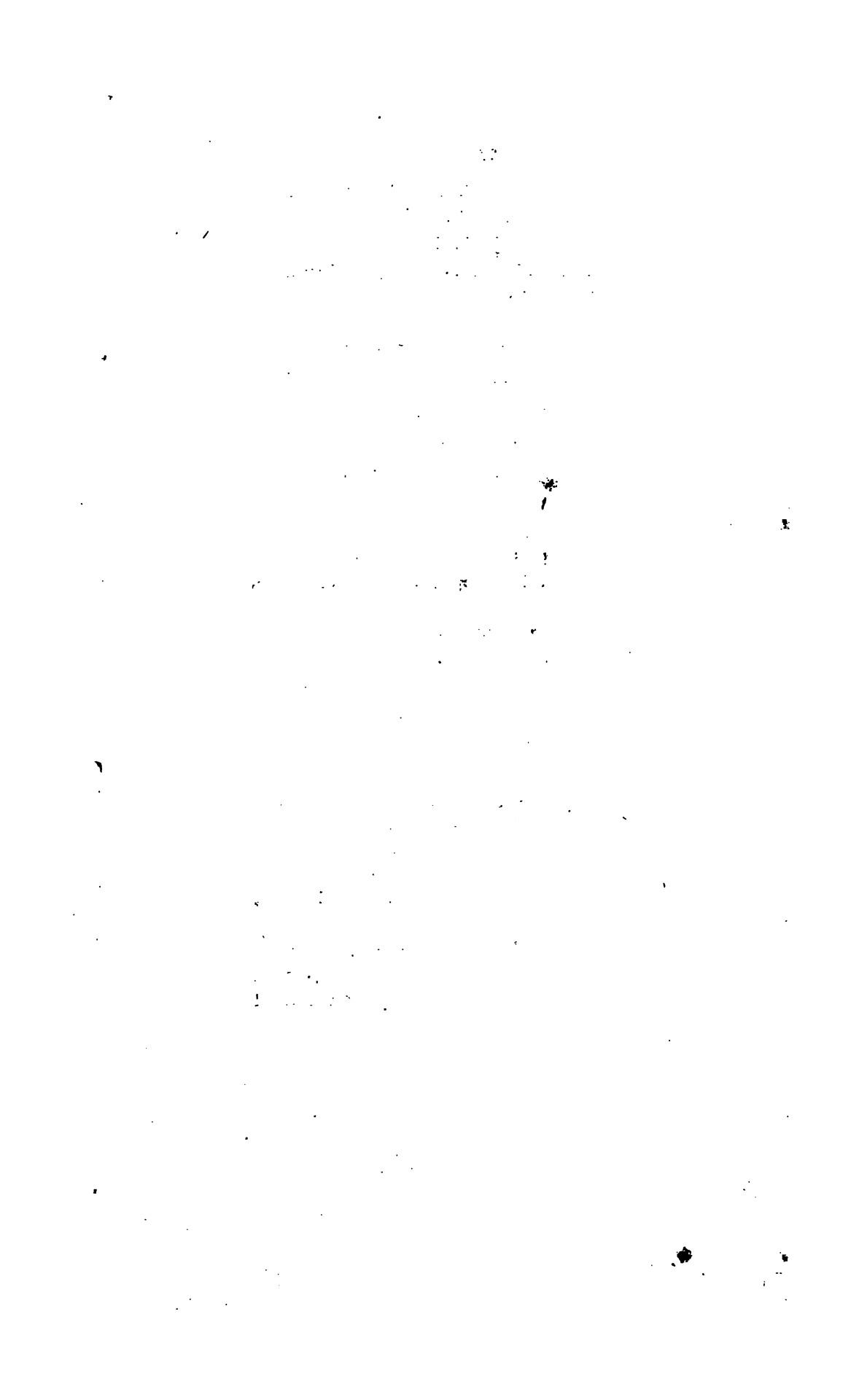
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A N
A D D R E S S

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

PRONOUNCED IN

KINGS CHAPEL, BOSTON,

ON THEIR FOURTH ANNIVERSARY,

OCTOBER 23, 1816.

BY THE REV. WILLIAM BENTLEY.

WORCESTER:
PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY.

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THE manuscript notes of this Address, now for the first time printed, were found among papers of the author which came to the Society on the death of the late WILLIAM B. FOWLE. As they, evidently, had not been prepared for the press, the Publishing Committee have ventured to re-arrange some expressions, and omit a few sentences whose meaning was not clear. This paper has long been desired to take its place in the series of Proceedings of the Society at their periods of meeting.

The following vote, passed on the day of the delivery of the Address, is taken from the Records :

"Afternoon, at the STONE CHAPEL, October 23, 1816.

Voted, That the Hon. Mr. Robbins and the Rev. Mr. Jenks be a Committee to express the thanks of the Society to the Rev. Mr. Bentley for the Address delivered this day, and to request a copy of the same for the press."

At a meeting of the Society in January following, the Committee reported "progress," and there the matter appears to have rested.



ADDRESS.

IN multiplying the associations of life, regard must be paid, not to the objects only, but to the means which they afford. Under the general name of an institution of Arts and Sciences might be included any researches which the public favor ought to embrace. Everything relating to man is history, but Antiquity regards a particular period of society, and may have its immediate and indispensable obligations. We have boasted of our schools, and every historian has given us the praise which our success has secured to us; but if the historian could have examined a book of antiquities, he might in a few lines have exhibited to the reader, not alone the effect, but the powerful causes which had concurred to produce it. From the neglect of antiquities we have almost lost the knowledge of the elementary books which preceded, in the course of instruction, those of the past century. And even our first historian, Hubbard, who was the first founder of a school upon appropriated funds, and was at ease in his condition, was reported to a most attentive biographer as a pauper, and as neglected in his old age; when he died the richest in his profession, and with greater acknowledgments from his charge than any minister has received before or after his times. No man could make more diligent inquiry, or employ greater impartiality than his biographer had done, but he had not the aid of an antiquary. The same thing is to be observed of the

son of the greatest merchant of the first century of our history. He gave his talents and a portion of his wealth to the college, and resided and died in Charlestown; and yet the value of these services, and of this character and influence, did not prevent the denial of these facts, when they were announced in the present generation, even by those who had high claims upon the public favor, and were in circumstances which might be deemed the best for information on this subject. We may observe further that the most flourishing university in our country so little encouraged the work of the antiquary, that among few of its sons are to be found the elementary books which were copied from the manuscripts of the most able instructors, and even presidents of the establishment, though these constitute elements from which the true history of the University must be given, and become of the highest value in connection with the true history of instruction in our elementary schools. Had the labors of the antiquary been duly encouraged, the best part of our history could not have been found at the present day in its present very imperfect state. If no study be more interesting to man, than that of his own race, and no part of it more dear than that of his kindred and country, the study in which we engage must have the highest commendation, particularly at a time when general neglect has almost excluded us from the best information respecting the origin of our own institutions, and the progress and means of our own prosperity.

The part I shall assign myself on the present occasion will be by the aid of the antiquary to correct some vulgar errors respecting the true character of the past generation. As that generation has too freely been represented as a race of fanatics, it has been more difficult for the historian to conceive how that which has been destructive in every other country, should have ultimately been so successful in this. And not having any proper aid from the antiquary, he is

obliged to admit causes inadequate to the great effect, and to leave hastily the whole in the obscurity in which he finds it. By fanaticism here, we do not intend any opinions of ancient or modern times, or of any nation, but that impulse from imagination that acknowledges no restraint from civil authority or the knowledge the age in which it appears —that is blind, impetuous, and dangerous.

When our settlements began, they soon perceived the favorable opportunities to promote their independence. The only difficulty was political, from the consideration of the allegiance they owed to the country from which they came, and from the dangers of powerful neighbors. But this difficulty did not prevent very important measures to hasten the time in which it might be accomplished, or very serious projects respecting the manner of it. The first project was from Mr. Williams, who, regardless of every prejudice in his time, was for a new civil constitution, and an open separation from all ecclesiastical dominion. The spirit we might commend, but not the means. More was due to what men were, and much more to what they might become. It was fanaticism which opposed itself to this project, because it was too bold on points on which fanaticism could then take no instruction. It failed, and we need say no more at present about it.

We cannot refuse to admire the first project, and to declare that it was not a civil investigation that frustrated it. The next became more successful, as it threatened nothing to fanaticism, and was executed without alarm to civil prejudices; and it may be considered as that begun in the time of Mr. Peters. This embraced three objects: the greatest commercial activity, the display of mercantile wealth, and the substitution of civil for religious festivities; and the antiquary will tell us that these three objects were most remarkably accomplished in the first generation. For the attainment of the first it was necessary to command the wealth collected

in the country, belonging to the richest settlers, and obtained from the best directed industry. We know not a circumstance that can be added to those which this project employed. The Capital had not assumed a mercantile superiority. In the negotiations of the country respecting its commercial interests, it employed the activity it found in Mr. Peters and his friends. Possessed of the claims of precedence in civil affairs, and holding the university in its neighborhood, it granted the full use of all the public stock to those who were content with the use, and really rewarded the Capital by transplanting, in the event, the greatest wealth into its bosom, with a large portion of that which was retained, after it had circulated in its own channels. We find, as early as 1658, a large importation for the two chief towns, in three ships from England only, amounting to six thousand pounds sterling. The country had not then, in this part of it, any settlement which had existed one-third of a century. The whole character of this commerce the antiquary may assist to develop, and may exhibit it in all the correct forms in which business was done in the best houses of London, or Amsterdam, or the most established marts of Europe.

But as the existence of this commerce has not been doubted, we may at present entertain ourselves more properly with the exhibition of mercantile wealth, from which we are to collect the extent of its influence upon public manners. We have too long been taught to believe that at first every thing bore the marks of a poverty, which, though voluntary, was real; that the austerity of manners did well enough agree with the horrors of a wilderness, being content only to supply the first wants, and erect a cabin which the waste of fuel rendered inhabitable. But what shall we say when we discover what articles an inventory of a first settler did embrace? The nature of the argument obliges an enumeration with which we here might be inclined to dispense, but with which they who wish plenary evidence may

be satisfied. Nor is it a solitary example. It is the exact measure at which wealth held its reputation.

At the mansion house we find every description of out-houses, adapted to every domestic convenience. For business we find the upper and lower warehouses and wharf, and the accommodations which belong to them. We are then carried to the store chamber, in which supplies are abundant. In the mansion house we find every apartment designated for its exclusive purposes. In the old hall we find floors of great firmness, walls covered with panels which fill their whole height, and windows of large dimensions and deep seats, measuring the whole thickness of the frames and the work around them. We then ascend to the Red chamber, the Glass chamber, passing the Hall chamber and Corner chambers, leaving below, besides rooms for domestic services, the counting-house and entry. Above are all the conveniences for the many servants employed in the house. Of the articles which the domestic furniture includes we may reckon above 70 articles of plate of every description, giving 1056 ounces, equal to £352. In the out-houses we find places for the family horse, and whatever may increase domestic enjoyment. Nor are these pleasures solitary. The life of the town is assisted by all the advantages of adjacent farms and cultivated territory. One farm a few miles from home has 200 acres; another at a greater distance, 800 acres. Houses and lands, besides, were holden by various claims, or under leases. Nor among the stores of the family do we find less than three pipes of Madeira reserved for domestic use. An inventory of 70 pages is entitled to so much notice. But this quotation would be less pertinent were it without example. We might adduce the same things from other estates, and if in some of them the amount might be less, it would not be because any articles we have enumerated were omitted. Such houses as yet remain, erected in the first century, give ample confirmation to these legal records

of wealth. We are not to suppose that this wealth, so displayed, had not everything which could aid its duration and give it the perfection of which the age was capable. We find, in the many Corinthian capitals, that the huge Gothic coverings had not obliged them to forget the effect which a whole front could receive from the just elevation of Grecian orders; and the rudeness of the wilderness had not made them forget the regular pavements on which their buildings were approached.

But the accommodations of the possessor did not terminate with the habitation in which he dwelt. The ornaments of person were as well known and as eagerly sought as in any age, and the antiquary may produce letters from the most devout families, and even from the families of ministers, in which the taste of the greatest city in the world is as earnestly consulted as to dress and colors as we could imagine it might be in an age of luxury and beauty. Nor was the severity of republican manners allowed to interfere with these indulgences, and these enjoyments of wealth and beauty. The destruction of such good things under the pretence of zeal, would have been more extravagant in that age than in our own. Such as have seen the wives of elders, who survived to the past century, well know that no persons were more rich in their apparel, or more careful of respect at home and abroad. The effects were not limited. In religious assemblies, the magistrates and citizens in commission had their special seats, and the valuation of estates was seen, not barely in the records of office, but in public meetings, and even in the catalogues of their rising institutions of education. Whatever could thus have influence upon the whole character of life, should not be overlooked by the historian, and the antiquary should be ready to supply; as without it the most false calculation might be made of the condition of society and of the real means of its advancement to that state which may command our respect and admiration.

But another subject yet lies before us, which will disclose not barely a spirit of imitation, but the discernment which posterity will appreciate as belonging to character, if not honorable to genius and a refined civil polity. It is that to which we referred when we mentioned a substitute of civil for religious festivities. It is entitled to minute investigation, which at some future time it will undoubtedly receive. It is an odious task to impose restraints upon the passions of men, and particularly to attempt to change the expressions of them. Civil governments have preferred to associate public festivities with the religious principle, to become more sure of the act and of the principle. In Christendom this sentiment had lost none of its force at the reformation, and the same motives which had induced Christian nations to adopt the festivities of civil governments by changing, not the form, but occasion of them, would still urge an enlightened government not to forget all these experiments upon human nature. The purpose of our country was not to abound in civil festivities and the public aids of the passions, but to restore to the State, and to the institutions it adopts, the exclusive indulgence of all the festivities it would create. We might have expected from superstition that the ancient solemnities would remain, and from theory, that if they were denied all the pomp they had assumed to awe and engage the senses, the conviction which could produce so great a change, would wage an eternal warfare with every sportive scene and passionate indulgence. But what can be done by a sect, cannot be done by human nature. What Christian nations might allow to religious orders with benefit to society could never be imposed upon the whole social character. What the indulgence of the Church had made the duty of religious orders, was left in our country to private manners. What was then to be the substitute for the domestic observance of christenings and the solemn pomp of consecration? What was to reconcile the people to an almost total exclusion

from even the ceremony of baptism? What was to persuade them that the recurrence of Easter day and Christmas was not to divide the years, and that the canonical days were to pass without any notice? As commerce was to enrich society, the launches of ships were rendered important amusements of the people; and the entertainments on such occasions gave the men of active business an opportunity to excite the strongest affections to themselves by these public exhibitions, and by a liberal provision for the working men they employed. The expenses as reported to us, would be sufficient for some of our modern entertainments. Military reviews had all the attention of the government, and the articles of military dress have in some families been preserved beyond a century. They were occasions on which the rich revealed their love of honors, while they denied themselves no badge of office, and no ceremony which had been preserved in any book of discipline. The court days were not less festive than the military, and were celebrated in the most distant settlements; while the humble sports and generous feats of strength assigned to the annual period of their elections were as sure to be repeated as the diversions of a birthday or of a coronation. Such substitutes might answer for the sportive passions, but in the hour of bereavement superstition might insist upon all its claims. How dispense with the ritual of the dead and impose an uninterrupted silence upon the house of mourning, the funeral procession, and the visit to the tomb or the grave? How forbid the funeral anthem, or the devout ejaculation to the saint? Yet our fathers did impose this silence. After the last breath the language of prayer ceased from the lips of the minister of religion. He had no other office than that of every neighbor, to join in the same procession, or to take his place at his pleasure among mourning relatives and friends. The expenses on such occasions were the greatest which

in social life could occur. Every one provided for the charties or tokens which were to be his last gifts to his friends and neighbors. It is the fate of the antiquary, that, while he finds it necessary to exhibit such circumstances, they will be often thought too trifling by those who know not how to appreciate them in real history, where they may not even be mentioned. What should we think, in times of economy, of one hundred pounds in funeral charges, which had no other object than compliance with the custom? Should we imagine it was an age of poverty when custom required the purchase of 40 dozen pairs of gloves, of which the greater part were used at the funeral, and sixty gold rings, of which some were valued at five pounds, and none so low as half that amount? What shall we say of a bill which exceeded 400 pounds, and not far from sterling value? We have no occasion to pay such a price for redemption from any European customs we might discommend. The lapse of time destroys the spell which long habits impose, and we can enjoy an innocent freedom upon these subjects. But the danger of relapse will be an apology for the first settlers, which will be admitted by every candid man. And how shall we judge fairly of them if we have not their manners before us, and cannot assign the causes which were sufficient to advance their civil state beyond that of other European colonies.

It is to commerce we are indebted for the advancement of our settlements to that success which no errors of opinion could overthrow: and while it was able to yield such advantages, we surely owe it such an investigation as will lead us to put a full value upon its resources and its opportunities. If we are indebted to Mr. Peters for his concurrence in the measures of our commerce, we are not less indebted to Mr. Norris, his successor, for his aid to industry in the arts by which the commerce of our settlements was assisted; and we cannot have better evidence of the general interest than the relapse into the greatest domestic

danger upon the decline of commerce, and the general fears which the revolution in England seemed to occasion. All the great houses of commerce had establishments in the Capital, and conducted all their business in this manner. They established some of their children, and possessed houses, stores, and wharves, by which their business had the same ample advantages, in different situations, and even upon such parts of the shore as supplied lumber, or fish, or any thing which could be valuable in the market. Never do we discover greater anxiety than after the restoration, when the monarch proposed to unite a part of the present province of Maine to the government of New York, with which before no serious competition had arisen. The first thing was to provide competent ship-builders, and each settlement was ambitious to claim the best specimens of naval architecture; but the enterprise of Mr. Peters soon produced a ship of 300 tons, and the timber hills are still known from which he supplied his workmen. The artificers of that day still have posterity in the same occupations; and from them have been obtained the models of their vessels, the price of tonnage, and all the articles supplied in the market for ship-building. We find by arrivals at Boston, from Europe, the value of the commerce during the commonwealth. We find one cargo invoiced 2949£.; three company ships at 3437£.; one at 1666£.; another at 1387£.; another at 5835£.; another at 2975£. Voyages to France are mentioned, as well as to England. The three ships, Prudence, Mary, and Speedwell, are reckoned at 4943£.; the Trial to France at 1328£. and America to France 3825£. We content ourselves with a cursory notice, from which we may infer to what amount voyages in the first generation had arisen.

We are led to inquire about the domestic trade, and we find early from the families of Endicott and Hathorne, persons residing in Maine to secure the lumber trade. The history of this trade will give the value of the first purchases

in that country, and the extent of their conflicting claims. At one time a merchant had debts at the Eastward amounting to above 1200£. in sums advanced in the lumber trade. The agreements with the logmen give the same general character to the trade which it still retains. The fishing voyages were made in four fares, and the stock and respective fares were made out great and small generals, as at the present time. The greatest care was taken to reserve on the shores the most suitable lots of land for the fishery, which gave employment to many hands ashore; and the regulations prevented any purchases which should give exclusive privileges in particular places, so that the great changes which arose from the different location of settlements, were due to the different localities of the fishing business. The fishery at home was so settled into a system that the gains were chiefly with those who could ship to a market after making their purchases from the fishermen. The business, from its regularity, soon became the exclusive or general employment of whole settlements, to which it gave its own manners and character; raising, as in Europe, a most hardy and enterprising race for all naval adventures.

The commerce in America soon became greatest in small vessels, even those employed in the fishery with the West Indies. Barbadoes appears at the most early period very often on the books of the merchant. It was at a later time that conquest gave to the English Jamaica, which soon became a favorite island. In one of the Ketches in the first West India voyages, we find Pork, Mackerel, Bass, Cod, Tar, Flour, Peas, Oil, and Butter, invoiced at 253£. The whole in quarters at 469£. Voyages were made to other islands in the West Indies, as the laws of trade and prospects of success did admit, and also to the Madeira Islands, and the islands of its neighborhood, particularly Fayal. The trade to Bilboa, in the Bay of Biscay, was also early

known and much used, as well as the trade to other parts of Spain and to Portugal.

With whatever interest we regard the foreign trade, we may find there the causes which have concurred to produce the union of our States, as these appear in the different periods of our history from the beginning. Though it be true that our existence under the same government must have supplied the most powerful causes of union, yet it is evident that our rapid progress did at every period obtain for us advantages never derived from this same government. The political wisdom which resigned to the British nation the settlements which the Dutch and the Swedes had made in the most flourishing part of our country, was directed by the slow growth of those plantations, and the higher value of our own. The same policy arrested the regions in the North, which had been possessed by the French, and those which had been held by the Spaniards in the South. And it is the same condition of things which has given to the States, since the revolution, the extensive regions of Louisiana. Whatever any portion of the Southern States may claim from the priority of date to their settlements, we trust it will not be questioned that they were inferior to us in their commerce at the period of which we treat, and if they have not been indebted to our example, they must confess they were later in the school of commerce than ourselves.

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The trade with Rhode Island plantations, and with Connecticut, was adventured by the same merchants, and had continued from the beginning. But as many of their sailors were from our plantations, similarity of habits had brought many of their vessels into our ports, and of our vessels into their own in turn. The Ketch beginning was upon such voyages, and we find orders expressed to go to the southward to fall into the sound of Rhode Island and of Connecticut, to make up their cargo of Wheat, Corn and Pork. The freights for fish to the Isles of Shoals, and for Piscataqua and Portsmouth and Great Island, which were early in a flourishing condition from the fishery, are often mentioned. In the same manner visits were made to Cape Sable on the coast below us. Our adventurers often suffered from

the Indians in the higher latitudes. It was at a later period that the whale fishery had vessels from all our ports, but the oil which was procured was always in our ports. The whole view of an infant people in such progress may yield impressions very favorable to their industry.

One thing is very honorable to the character of our first merchants, and it was the unbounded credit they gave to each other. Whatever was judged expedient for a voyage, and was to be found in the possession of any other merchant it was obtained upon credit, or the owner was invited to become interested in the voyage which it could render productive. We often find sums as large as the whole amount of property upon credit, without any embarrassment to the merchant, if the articles he might require were in the market. This confidence was not confined to business. All the supplies which are necessary to domestic life, are obtainable in the smallest quantities, while we find the greatest luxuries furnished as the occasions or wishes of neighbors may require. Hardly a wine of any quality could be named that could not be found, and it was no part of their temperance to live penitulously, but to have the best without abuse and with friendship.

It is an inquiry that will be made on this subject, were the benefits derived by society contemplated by those who were the instruments of them, or were they only in pursuit of wealth, regardless of the general advantages which might arise to the whole community? It is upon the answer to this inquiry that their highest value must depend. It is a known and acknowledged truth, that the greatest merchants were the greatest benefactors of the infant colony. The proudest building of our capital was the donation of a merchant, and the greatest merchant of Salem not only was liberal on all great occasions, but he assisted in building places of worship, in erecting a college, and in endowments of both college and schools; and his example was followed

by his posterity without any diminished effort. The character gained in the first days of our existence has served as the guardian of our better years, and of our richest hopes. The son of Mr. Brown was supplied from the wealth of his father, and gave his best services to the college and to the churches. Though he accepted no pastoral charge, he performed all its duties, and honored the college and the churches, as well by his services as by his bounty. It would be odious to distinguish families, but what families have done more honor to our country and to our college than those of Leverett or Winthrop! The civil and military and learned professions have had their greatest ornaments from such families as possessed the wealth of the country, and this had no other source but its commerce. Public honors had not in that age rich endowments. From the bounty of the rich our public institutions were maintained, and education in the first generation had all the assistance which enlightened Europe could afford. Says Mr. Peters, writing to Deacon Orne, my desire is that my wife should return to America, and I propose to follow. It was my mind that my cousin Downing should educate my child and dwell in my house. This person was afterwards a minister abroad in the reign of Charles the second. And it should be remembered that no dissensions in churches, no questions of military obligations, and no parties for family interests, arose from combinations among men of business. Their share in the confidence of the people came from the industry they promoted around them. We have not any works from the press to which we can appeal, as the press was almost altogether surrendered to the government and to the ministers of religion; but none of the public documents bring them into disgrace, or allow us to impute any public calamities to their interference. The people never suffered from their independence, and never were betrayed by any effort to corrupt them. It was in our towns that their influence was

most felt, and that the best schools were found. Public opinion has assigned to the ministers of religion the special qualifications for teachers of literature; but in the oldest settlement, scarce a year can be named in which the instruction of youth was not found to be directed by men who had no offices in the church.

In the military service we discover their constant pre-eminence. They seem to have inherited those honors. And this distinction, which began from the influence of character, has not been lost in our own times. Such honors were shared among the best citizens, who combined heroism with their agricultural pursuits; but in every part of our country we have seen the tendency of corresponding pursuits to furnish candidates for military promotion. It is not to bestow an undue share of praise, that this respectful notice is taken of an invaluable class of citizens, but to disclose how much the antiquary may do in restoring history to its truth and its simplicity. Enough is known of past events, and related in accordance with unquestionable facts, to satisfy us that it is from the active habits of men and nations their hopes must arise; that whatever office they assign to opinions, it must be to increase the public virtue of the age. That part of national character is the best which preserves industry, provides its means, enlarges its honors, and secures its blessings. We need not employ a single quotation from foreign history. We have only to examine our own. The dangerous opinion that the State has a religion to defend against the right of private judgment, repeatedly involved our settlements in imminent danger. One of the best friends of civil liberty was obliged to retire. One of the greatest men of the settlement, by the strength of his genius, gave authority to persecution. Had not a power existed to restrain this zeal, every hope must have been abandoned. Repeatedly the same spirit endangered that balance between the undiscerning and the wise, upon which public safety depends; and it was from the

aid which the interests of commerce afforded and the light it gave, that the balance was restored and the higher wisdom prevailed. Society still continues to need the same balance, and it is by the power we can command, and can suitably direct, that we accomplish the best good. It is not the quantity of the power, but the suitable application of it.

How much we are indebted to the vigilance of commerce for our present political situation is well known. What our gratitude ought to be to the agency which supports our public institutions, which prevents religion from all the degradation that superstition could introduce, which gives patronage to our arts, which excites domestic industry and rewards it, that preserves the fine arts for our manners, and the best amusements to exclude the worst, it is needless to declare. It is enough if the antiquary can show us our former obligations; we trust our own prudence will accept the same guardianship, and that the more we know of the true cause of our greatness, the more sure and exalted it will appear.

The arts which commerce would encourage, are such as best support its true interest. It could not expect in an infant country to rival the proud establishments of Europe. Its first independence must be of the aids which its first necessities would require. The prudence which would provide mills for the preparation of food, would provide mills for the lumber trade, and the necessary articles for the management of the fisheries. All these would be of little use without ship-building. This art was soon introduced, and we are persuaded upon the best instruction; as Mr. Peters, when in the Low Countries, had visited the works which the great Richlieu had established when he endeavored to collect by every allurement, the best workmen in Europe into the French service. In the families of the most early emigrants of this craft from Europe, we

find only such books as were of later date than the first generation, and a few French engravings.

For a sloop we find the following proportions: Upon the keel 41 feet, by 15 on the beam, and by 6½ feet in the hold. Having 2½ feet in the waist, a steerage and cabin, a rake afore and aft, and two ports on a side. Contract upon the last day of June, to be delivered afloat in September at 3£ 5s. per ton. Another, double masted, to have 50 feet keel, and the rake of the stern post before 12 feet, and the breadth of the beam 19 feet, with a good round bow under water. The depth of the hold 9 feet 9, and three feet between decks from plank to plank, a rising abaft for a quarter deck 14 inches, to come to the main mast; the wales to be 5 inches thick, and wale pieces to be as long as possible, and one strake of plank on the wales, and another under of 4 inches, and tract line of dead rising 7 feet 9, sweep answerable. All the futtocks (tuthucks) of white oak. No plank to exceed 12 inches in breadth when worked, timber grown to the mould. Eight pounds to be paid per ton. 200£ at laying the keel, 100£ at the wales, 100£ at the upper deck, and to make up the two-thirds in money at delivery, and the payment of a third in goods. Another with a pink stern in April, to be finished in August at 10£ per ton. Keel 42 feet, 16 feet beam, and 7 feet 8 inches hold. 100£ at raising, 100 when demanded, and last at finishing, with all the usual customs attending such contracts. A special regard is always paid to the quality of the timber. At this time the iron was an article of importation, though able smiths were in the country to work it, and perhaps in as great variety as at present, as it was employed in more domestic uses than in our times, and polished for the best purposes. The Spanish iron is sometimes charged at double the price of English, and always above it. The Spanish steel had the same preference. Canvas is reckoned at 30 pence a yard. The carpenters were led to combine very different labors, as may be

known from the following contract: The house that is to be built, must have the following dimensions. Its length 24 feet from inside to inside, and its breadth 18 feet. The length of stud 10 feet between wall plate and ground sill, with three lengths of joist, to jett at the end next the street 2 feet, with handsome pendulas. One gable end on the west side and towards the north end, together with sleepers for the lower floor. The frame to be completely raised, and the price in goods, 12 pounds. To furnish the house in addition to the plate, was the great quantity of pewter which was required, for which we have a ready substitute. Thirty-five pounds was not an uncommon portion; in some families we find 452 weight. The form of it differed from that in present use, as the dishes partook of the shape adapted to the separate use of liquids, so that the depressed part did not exceed a third of the whole diameter. The articles of plate were all imitated in this metal; and we find in the list, tankards, basins, salvers, dishes, plates, bowls, goblets, porringers, cups, pots, and spoons of every size. To riches and strength they added ornament.

Some of the specimens of painting which remain have nothing superior in the durability and combination of colors; and the art to which they had recourse, seldom gave them cause to renew their call for its aid in their apartments for several generations. The greater use of wood for the apartments very much confined the labors of the mason, who had seldom any opportunity to display his skill but in places which required more strength than beauty; the decorations on the parts of the chimney which passed beyond the roof being the principal display of taste abroad, as the hearth and the tile were around the fire. These seldom required repair. So great was the confidence in the cement, and so free its use, that no complaint was made against the smallest stones which could be used in a wall; and the unbaked clay and light bricks which were interposed between the two

known and much used, as well as the trade to other parts of Spain and to Portugal.

With whatever interest we regard the foreign trade, we may find there the causes which have concurred to produce the union of our States, as these appear in the different periods of our history from the beginning. Though it be true that our existence under the same government must have supplied the most powerful causes of union, yet it is evident that our rapid progress did at every period obtain for us advantages never derived from this same government. The political wisdom which resigned to the British nation the settlements which the Dutch and the Swedes had made in the most flourishing part of our country, was directed by the slow growth of those plantations, and the higher value of our own. The same policy arrested the regions in the North, which had been possessed by the French, and those which had been held by the Spaniards in the South. And it is the same condition of things which has given to the States, since the revolution, the extensive regions of Louisiana. Whatever any portion of the Southern States may claim from the priority of date to their settlements, we trust it will not be questioned that they were inferior to us in their commerce at the period of which we treat, and if they have not been indebted to our example, they must confess they were later in the school of commerce than ourselves.

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AN
A D D R E S S ,
DELIVERED AT
W O R C E S T E R ,
AUGUST 24, 1820,
BEFORE THE
American Antiquarian Society,
AT THE OPENING OF THE
ANTIQUARIAN HALL,

THAT DAY RECEIVED AS A DONATION FROM
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

BY ISAAC GOODWIN.

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WORCESTER:
Printed by MANNING & TRUMBULL.....Sept. 1820.

*At a Meeting of the American Antiquarian Society, August 24,
1820—*

VOTED, unanimously, That Hon. EDWARD H. ROBBINS, Hon. NATHANIEL PAINE, and SAMUEL M. BURNSIDE, Esq. be a Committee to express the thanks of this Society to ISAAC GOODWIN, Esq. for his pertinent and eloquent Address, this day delivered before them, and to request of him a copy for publication.

*An Extract from the Records of the A. A. S. Aug. 24, 1820.
R. NEWTON, Rec. Sec'y.*

(Reprint from Original, 1894.)

ADDRESS.

TO recollect the events of past ages, to preserve the memorials of our predecessors, and to transmit a knowledge of them to future generations, are principles peculiar to the human character. In the long course of their history, men have applied to these objects the best means in their power. In the ages of patriarchal simplicity, before “infant letters” had guided and delighted the Arabian herdsmen, we find tradition the only depository of past events. Uncultivated tribes of men, in succeeding periods, even to our time and country, have received all their annals from the lips of their fathers.— And the sacred historian, *skilled in all the learning of the Egyptians*, and deriving his knowledge from a sublimer source, sensible of the high character of this species of evidence, has recorded with a peculiar minuteness the genealogies of the primitive families of the earth.(1.) But the liability to error, so manifest even in states of society more advanced, soon demonstrated the insufficiency of this mode of perpetuating a knowledge of facts; and we find monuments of stone, and pillars of brass the appropriate records of human greatness, and memorials of the revolutions of kingdoms. These have suc-

cessively mouldered into dust, or now exhibit melancholy heaps of ruins, desolating the plains they were intended to adorn.

The pyramids of Egypt, the mounds of the Muskingum and the Ohio, for many centuries have recorded the folly of human vanity, and the weakness of human pride; but not the *names* of those once illustrious heroes, to perpetuate whose fame, these interesting mausolea were probably erected. These, with their achievements, have been swept away by the lapse of ages; and even the period in which they existed, is now shrouded in a night of forgetfulness—more appalling to the thought, more desolate to the imagination, than the once supernatural darkness of the country occupied by the most perfect of these mysterious relicks of remote antiquity—these “unambiguous footsteps” of a race of men, far advanced in civilization and the mechanick arts.

The chroniclers of later periods have preserved, by the use of letters, the annals of the human race; and it is to them we recur, to ascertain the progress of our species, from the infancy to the manhood of social institutions.

In that eventful period, commencing with the dawn of science upon early Greece, until the gloomy hour, when, with the decline of Roman greatness, learning set in darkness, we find history true to her trust; and, after making suitable deductions for the absurd mythologies in which some portions of it are involved, we discover man as we ourselves behold him—sometimes directed by the purest love of

country, and the most exalted private virtues—sometimes guided by base selfishness, the madman of ambition, the victim of passion, the slave of sensuality and appetite—now buoyed up by the visions of glory—now depressed by gloom and adversity. We behold nations, like individuals, rising into greatness, by noble actions; and then, by folly, luxury, and guilt, generating the causes of their own dissolution.

In the next succeeding age of the world, when learning confined her bounties to but few—when the tyrannical rulers of the earth forbade her pouring forth her treasures to all who would receive them—when almost every thing was perverted by selfish and base passions, history itself did not escape the defilement of a downward age. Hence the annals of that dark period are crowded with legends, and with the ridiculous exploits of a fanciful chivalry. For several centuries the world was indebted to the inhabitants of the monastick cloisters, the corrupt priesthood of a corrupt church, not only for the dim rays of science, that directed them to what was useful in this life, but also for the eclipsed light that faintly illuminated the path to immortality. “In those deep solitudes and awful cells,” where every thing pure was contaminated, every thing noble debased, every thing holy desecrated, the relicks of literature that descended from nations of a more remote antiquity, that were snatched from the fire of Omar and the torch of the Vandal invader, became disfigured, mutilate, and corrupt. And even the sacred volume, that contains the archives

of our firmest faith and sublimest hopes, did not escape the *harpy touch* of those foes to religion and learning, those enemies to God and man.(2.)

The invention of PRINTING, that art without which other arts would be useless to the mass of mankind, ushered in the glorious morning of revived letters, and beamed a new day upon a world benighted in ignorance. In the forcible language of the venerated historian of this art, “the veil which obscured the reason of man was now removed, and the chain that bound him in superstition was broken.” Instead of being confined to a single spot of earth, instead of existing only for his own age and country, “he becomes at once the cotemporary of every age, and the citizen of every clime.” From that period to the present, increasing light has been constantly pouring upon the human mind, and the advance of our species has been commensurate with the glorious advantages enjoyed. From the more general diffusion of knowledge, a spirit of free inquiry has arisen, that produces a variety of opinion, and, upon every question of general interest or concern, divides the world into parties, sects, and factions.—This evil pervades a community in proportion as it is enlightened. And such now are the facilities of multiplying copies of books, that the histories of modern times are too often discoloured by the party feelings of the respective historians. The same facts are related so variously by different writers, that it is sometimes with difficulty we ascertain they refer to the same event. This presents so many obstacles to the discovery of truth, that it is often

impossible to form a correct opinion of a transaction, until the generation have passed by, who were actors in the scene. Can we then derive no benefit from the success or miscarriage of our predecessors or cotemporaries? Are there no sources of historical knowledge, but what are perplexed by doubt, entangled by contradiction, or darkened by uncertainty? There are, to the inquirer who learns history not merely from the detailed narratives of battles, massacres, and revolutions—not from the interested relations of sectarians or factionists, whose party prejudices discolour, and whose national or individual views distort every circumstance they narrate. The philosophical historian learns man from his progress at certain given periods, in relation to the advantages he possesses—from his advances in civilization and science—in his attachment to political and ecclesiastical liberty—his abhorrent dread of slavery—his detestation of those intellectual restrictions, that in any shape fetter the mind, and mould the understanding to the will of a dictator. Such an observer traces effects to their remote as well as immediate causes. He looks with interest and delight upon those known and visible monuments, that mark the progress of his predecessors—those changes in government and laws, in customs, or in language, which, though operating by slow gradations, are declarative of a revolution in national character. From the vestiges of antiquity discovered among nations, he learns their origin and advancement. The progress of the arts, and the relative skill of the artist are taught from

specimens of his works—from models of his taste, better than from any narration; and an ancient coin, or medal, oftentimes speaks volumes in relation to national customs, the modes and weapons of warfare, of dress, of the implements used in agriculture, or the mechanick arts.

Nor let it be objected that these inquiries are sometimes pursued to extremes that appear trivial, and even ridiculous—that they have been the favourite theme of satire in every age—the target at which wits have hurled their keenest arrows. What though the hero of Cervantes conducted like a maniac with the fancied helmet of Mambrino—or the father of Scriblerus lost his senses with the rust of his shield? Until it is proved that *ridicule* is the test of truth, we deny that any argument against antiquarian researches results from this source.

It is important for the statesman or the lawyer to investigate the nature and operation of governments and laws, to ascertain their defects from time and experience, or to guard against too great or too frequent innovation—it is of indispensable consequence that the origin and gradual progress of the Legislative and Judicial institutions of his own and other countries be familiar to his mind; so that he will be able to trace from the acorn, the gradual development and growth of the majestick oak, by which he sits, and whose branches afford comfort and protection to the thousands they overshadow.

But in no subject are minute researches into antiquity of more consequence than in Theology.—Without discussing the nature of the evidence de-

rived from thence, in support of the truth of revelation, we would suggest its importance in biblical criticism—in gathering, from a variety of readings, the true meaning of the sacred writers—in nicely discriminating the relative correctness of the different versions—in ascertaining the history of the various manuscript copies of the Scriptures—the characters of those who have transcribed or preserved them—their inducements to interpolate or omit certain passages, as they might promote or obstruct the progress of particular doctrines. A knowledge of the dialects and customs of the nations who existed when these venerable memorials of our faith were promulgated, must also be of great importance in illustrating doubtful passages, and in explaining local allusions.

But a more powerful argument results from the nature of man, compared with the irrational creation. Reason is his prerogative: it is this that distinguishes him from other animals: it is this that enables him to convert whatever is valuable in their instinctive wisdom to his convenience and use. His knowledge is ever progressive: theirs is fixed and stationary. He is ever adding to his stock the accumulated experience of ages; they reached maturity at the creation. When our ancestors sheltered themselves in their rude misshapen cabins, the beaver had constructed his dam, and the birds their nests, with the same perfection, in relation to the rules of architecture and the mechanick arts, as they now manifest.

Before our race had associated under the various

forms of government that connect the larger societies of mankind together, the ants had formed their republick on the basis of labour; and the bees had yielded the supremacy to female influence in monarchical governments. While the “first-born Cain” was defiling the earth with murderous hands, because his brother’s offering was presented with more sincerity than his own—while the ground, already marred by sin, and cursed for man’s transgression, was teeming with the blood of the first religious controversy, the praises of the Most HIGH ascended from the feathered songsters of the grove, without envy, malice, or uncharitableness; but the Lords of the World, the Priests of Nature, ordained to offer the incense of a whole creation from lips of reason and hearts of gratitude, were insensible to the blessings of religious freedom, of charity universal, of toleration unlimited.

Two centuries this year elapse, since the pilgrim fathers of New-England first landed upon our shores—since was here planted the first germ of those civil, literary, and religious institutions, which have afforded security and consolation to their descendants. The nature of the enterprize—the firmness and intrepidity with which its obstacles were surmounted—the elevated characters of those who were foremost in the undertaking—their learning, their integrity, and their final success, declare to us they were high-minded men, of whom their native country was not worthy. From an ardent desire to advance the interests of posterity, they were willing to sacrifice the delights of their own country, en-

deared to them as the place of their nativity and the land of their fathers' sepulchres. For this, they were willing to abandon their homes, ever associated with the fondest recollections, to surmount the horrors of the wilderness, famine, pestilence, and the savage foe. And what has been the return of posterity? Have their memories been cherished with a gratitude proportionate to their deserts? Do monuments adorn our towns to tell the passing stranger the origin of New-England's glory? Alas! nor "storied urn," nor sculptured marble, mark even the hallowed spot consecrated by their ashes.

The ingratitude of republicks is proverbial.—From the day the just man of Athens subscribed the shell, this truth has been confirmed by almost every additional page of history. But where shall we look for a people who more justly merit this reproach than Americans? The intrepid discoverer of our continent was deprived of the honour of bestowing his name upon the New World his genius had brought to light.

The virtues of the primitive founders of our re-publick, the projectors of our most valued institutions are forgotten, and their names are seldom mentioned, but with reproaches for the follies of the age in which they lived, and which they were too wise to transmit to their posterity.

Generation has followed generation, and scarce any efforts have been made to rescue from oblivion the comparatively recent antiquities of America.—The memorials of our fathers, the origin of our institutions, are scarcely remembered. The race of

men found in possession of our continent are passing into forgetfulness—are rapidly mingling their remains with their native soil—a soil doomed to pass into other hands. The wave of civilization, from the Atlantick, is pursuing them to the farthest West, to regions illumined by the setting sun; and overwhelming in indistinguishable ruin, alike the recent Indian tribes with those of the more civilized nations, who, many centuries since, preceded them on our continent. We tread their common graves without emotion. With unconcern we build our streets and erect our edifices upon their sacred inclosures.—With sacrilegious hands we scatter to the winds alike the bones of the hero, and those of the faithful dog at his side. The land they once defended is ours.—The fields they trod, where they led their sons, where they inspired them with courage to repel the invader of these hills, are all our own; and ought we not to return them the slight tribute of our recollection, the trifling compensation of preserving their memorials?

To redeem our country from any further imputation of ungrateful neglect, to preserve every thing American, every thing illustrative of the ancient history of this continent, were among the principal objects for which this Society was formed. It is an association founded in individual patriotism, and fostered by national supplies of generosity—a body united from no motives of ordinary ambition, nor calculated to gratify any selfish views of personal aggrandizement: it was for no party purposes, as it was established and is protected by men of all parties:

nothing sectional, as it embraces a continent. Although now in its infancy, yet its progress has surpassed the expectations of its most enthusiastick friends. Directed by officers distinguished by their faithful zeal in promoting the objects of the Institution, supported by a laudable legislative patronage, and cheered by constant supplies of individual generosity, in the short course of eight years, it has obtained a rank known to but few institutions in our country; and, although we have been permitted barely to glean where others have long had an opportunity to gather a rich and abundant harvest, yet our Library and Cabinet inform us that many a generous and wealthy Boaz has said of our Society, "*Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not; and let fall some of the handfuls, and leave them, that she may glean, and rebuke her not.*"

To these treasures the historians of this and future ages will resort for a knowledge of every circumstance connected with American annals. Nor are our Library and Cabinet confined merely to collections for the historian; the contemplative observer of men, as well as the learned inquirer into every branch of science, will here find a rich repast. The mass of German literature added to our Library, by a late liberal bequest, will greatly facilitate the researches of those of our scholars, who are led to examine the rich and extensive treasures of learning constantly unfolding to the world from the nations of Europe. The advances made in science, upon that distinguished continent, for the last half century, have been great, beyond any former period.—

While we exult at the bright visions that are daily unfolding to enlightened man—while we rejoice that the glorious work of civil and religious *Reformation* is renewedly advancing in those regions that first burst the fetters of Papal Rome, we regret that principles fatal to social order, destructive of good government, and tending to weaken the *peculiar evidences of Divine Revelation*, should mingle with the liberal and lofty speculations of the German schools. To the admirers of some of their religious systems we would recommend a careful examination of the leaves at the *entrance* of the Sybil's cave, before they pursue the fathers of a visionary and perverted theology, in their descent to the region of shadows.—That the *truth* may be followed with safety, is a maxim generally correct; but to follow, after we have lost sight of the object, may be *courage*, but it is seldom *prudence*.

On this interesting occasion, when we are about to review our treasures in an edifice specially constructed, and appropriated to our particular use, by the unprecedented munificence of our most distinguished patron, who, on this occasion, presents us with "*a place for every thing, and shews us every thing in its place,*" it becomes an incumbent as well as a pleasing task, to express our publick gratitude to the numerous donors who are daily adding to the collections of this Institution. From a splendid catalogue, comprising many of the wise and the good and the benevolent, I should not reciprocate the grateful feelings of my brethren, did I omit a notice of the learned, the departed Bentley—of one, who, from

the beginning, cherished ardently the interests of this Society, and who, next to its chief officer, has done most to advance its usefulness and respectability. His philanthropy, his learning, his catholicism, and his piety, will entitle him to a high place among our benefactors, so long as unsolicited generosity and disinterested benevolence excite the gratitude of the human family.

The recent publications of our Committee disclose to us the labours of active officers and patrons, far removed from this vicinity; whose lucid and interesting descriptions of Western antiquities entitle them to the grateful respect of every patriotick American. Who can accompany the indefatigable and the learned ATWATER, while tracing the monuments of other days, the labours of men of "olden time," the strong defences of a people now no more—of nations whose very names are blotted from the registers of mankind—who can peruse the results of his extensive researches, his animated descriptions of "the vast cemeteries of beings of past ages," and not catch the glow of his enthusiasm, and become deeply interested in the success of his future labours?

The citizens of this County will accept our congratulations upon the transactions of this day. Let the favourable auspices that have attended the establishment of this National Institution here, be a new bond of union for us. Let us constantly remember that the same causes may hereafter mark this as the most suitable location for other important establishments; and continue to attract to this as a common

centre, the learning, the opulence, and the hospitality that pre-eminently distinguish this among the villages of our country. Cultivate then, fellow-citizens of the County of Worcester, an enlightened, a liberal spirit. Diminish not your relative importance by territorial subdivisions. Banish unworthy local prejudice, that baneful canker that often corrodes our best affections, and madly blinds us to our dearest interests. Let our greatest rivalry be that of striving who can best advance the permanent interests of this wide-spread section of our beloved Commonwealth.

Ours is distinguished as the age of benevolent institutions—of associations to advance the general good. Whether to promote piety, learning, agriculture, or the arts—to encourage virtue, or to repress vice, there is no one but can lend his aid. Inquire then, fellow-citizens, into the objects of these various societies, and, according to your several ability, *come over and help.*

It was by combining the wealth and talents of many, and directing them to one object, that first gave the peculiar character to the institutions of New-England—the foundations of her glory and her strength—the moral splendour that encircles and distinguishes her in the political hemisphere.—Without these, her cold climate and stubborn soil would have doomed her to almost perpetual barrenness and poverty. Supported by these grand pillars of national glory, and political happiness, she has attained a rank not surpassed by the regions of the sun. The spirit that animated our fathers, like the

pillar and the cloud, guides and protects their sons. It was this that gave the impress of a common origin to our literary, judicial, military, and municipal establishments. It is this that whitens with our canvass the waters of every sea, and echoes the hum of industry through our streets—it is this that clothes our vallies with corn, and feeds the cattle on our hundred hills—it is this that scatters, like the dew, the treasures of knowledge to all, and secures to every village an ALTAR, where the afflicted may find consolation, where human wretchedness may *weep and be comforted.*

To the memory of the great and the good, who have contributed to advance the glory and happiness of the American continent—without reference to states, provinces, or nations—with regard to age or clime—we now dedicate the rich donation this day received—that splendid edifice now appropriated to our use. Long may it be preserved and protected, as a durable monument of the chaste and permanent architecture of the present age. Long may it be cherished as a splendid memorial of individual generosity—the highest evidence of the patriotism and publick spirit of its munificent founder—a national benefactor, better known to his native land “by blessings received than by favours granted,” whose paternal regard for this Institution will entitle him to a high place in the grateful recollections of its members, long after the men of the present generation are numbered with their fathers. And, while we tread those spacious apartments—while we behold around their walls the relicks of ancient

greatness, the memorials of past ages, as well as the germs of future glory—let us be deeply impressed with a proper sense of our obligations to transmit this, and all our Institutions, as a magnificent legacy UNIMPAIRED to the remotest posterity.

N O T E S .

Page 3.

(1.) It is hoped that no one, from this, will suspect the faith of the author in the divine legation of Moses. The member of his profession who examines the evidence—who contemplates the wisdom of the Mo-saick system—its wonderful adaptation to the peculiar circumstances of the Israelites—who compares it with the imperfect systems of other law-givers—must be led to the conclusion, that the founder of the Jewish polity was divinely inspired. If unsatisfied to rest here, the lawyer who has examined the first principles of his profession, must believe in another miracle no less wonderful—that the shepherd of Midian had a most perfect knowledge of political science, of constitutions of government, of criminal and civil law, and of the general administration of justice; and this, too, in the infancy of the world, before political systems had been reduced to practice—before either Locke had wrote, Burke had spoken, Washington had fought, or Sidney had bled.

The reader is referred to *Michaelis's Commentaries on the Laws of Moses*; a work that should be in the hands of all modern reformers, all *Codification Jurists*, and all *Constitution Empiricks*.

Page 6.

(2.) We are told by Hume, that the monks of the middle ages had many ancient books that are now lost. Malmesbury, who flourished in the reign of Henry I. quotes Livy's description of Cæsar's passage over the Rubicon. Fitz Stephen, who lived in the reign of Henry II. alludes to a passage in the larger history of Sallust.

[*History of England, Vol. II., Note 10.*

The ancient copies of the Bible, already in this Society's Library, will throw much light upon the controversy concerning the disputed passage of 1 John, v. 7; and will prove the correctness of the above charge against the Monks of the dark age.

R E P O R T

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

OF

THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

OCTOBER, 1821.

The Committee appointed to report at this meeting, on the state of THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, respectfully represent —

THAT no material changes have taken place in the situation of the Society during the last year, and nothing adverse has arisen to disappoint the anticipations authorized by the Report which was made at the last Annual Meeting. Since that time, considerable additions have been made to the Library. Of these, Books valued at three hundred and seventeen dollars have been presented by the President; and others, amounting to one hundred and seventeen dollars, by other persons. In addition to which, there have been received from the several States of Maryland, Indiana, Louisiana, and Maine, copies of their Laws, Journals, and other publications, under the State authority. Several articles have also been added to the Cabinet. We have thus the gratifying assurance that the Institution is remembered by its friends abroad, and that the public confidence in its utility is not diminished.

We have also the pleasure to state, that the Building erected for the use of the Society is now completed, and enclosed in a manner displaying at once the taste and liberality of the donor. This Building, which is highly ornamental as a publick edifice, and well calculated to give respectability and permanency to the Institution, we are informed has been thus finished at the

expense of eight thousand dollars, which, in addition to former donations of Books, &c. to the estimated amount of more than ten thousand dollars, constitute a well-founded claim on the part of an individual member to the gratitude of the Society. We allude to it not only in justice to him, but as an example which we earnestly wish may have its influence upon others of our opulent and publick-spirited associates; for, notwithstanding what has already been accomplished, much remains to be done. The funds of the Society, it is well known, are but small, and their sources hitherto very limited. In the meantime, it has become necessary, for the proper disposition and preservation of the Books, that an additional room be fitted for their reception. The Cabinet, also, is but imperfectly arranged; and, to place it in a condition suitable for the inspection of visitors, and corresponding with the celebrity and respectability of the Institution, it is important that other rooms should be prepared. These suggestions are made by the Committee, with the hope that some mode may be devised for relieving the President from the burden which he has hitherto sustained, almost single-handed, in defraying the expenses of the Institution, and for providing for future expenditures, which its support must necessarily involve.

Several communications, from Members residing in this State, and in other States, have been received within the last year, which, in addition to those previously on file, warrant the promise of another volume, whenever the pecuniary circumstances of the Society shall justify its publication.

Thus far the Society has proceeded under favorable auspices. It remains for its Members, by their exertions, to justify the confidence inspired by its early promise.—While these are continued, we may reasonably flatter ourselves that it will reflect honor on its founders, prove an object of publick utility, and vindicate its claims to publick patronage.

REJOICE NEWTON.
SAMUEL JENNISON.

October 23, 1821.

Second Edition of 200 Copies.

PRINTED BY JOHN WILSON AND SON.

CAMBRIDGE, August, 1888.



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A D D R E S S

DELIVERED BEFORE THE



AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

A T

THEIR ANNUAL MEETING,

OCTOBER 23, 1835,

IN THE

UNITARIAN MEETING-HOUSE, WORCESTER,

IN RELATION TO

The Character and Services of their late Librarian,

CHRISTOPHER C. BALDWIN, ESQ.

BY WILLIAM LINCOLN.

WORCESTER:

PRINTED FOR THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

BY HENRY J. HOWLAND.

1835.

At a meeting of the Council of the American Antiquarian Society, held at Antiquarian Hall, on Wednesday evening, October 23d, 1835,

Voted, That the Secretary be directed to tender to WILLIAM LINCOLN, Esq. the thanks of the Council for his excellent and appropriate address, delivered at their request, before the Society, at their anniversary meeting on the 23d inst. in relation to the character and services of the late Librarian, and request a copy for publication.

R. NEWTON, *Rec'g. Sec'y.*

A D D R E S S.

WHEN the members of the Antiquarian Society last gathered in this house around the altar of Religion, the prayer ascended from the lips of the venerated servant of the Most High, for the benefactor and patron of our institution. The voice of one now silent in the grave, with the eloquent language of gratitude, portrayed the merits and services of him, who laid the foundation, and reared, in strength and beauty, the structure of our prosperity. Again we have come up to the temple of our faith, that spot where earth-born care may best repose, to acknowledge, in humility, the dispensation of Providence which has removed another valued associate from our circle.

The period is short since the Librarian cheered our meetings with his pleasant narrative of increasing acquisitions and extending usefulness. So brief is the space, we can scarcely be persuaded he will no more share in our labors. He still seems to us to occupy his accustomed seat, waiting to greet us with cordial welcome. We still seem to see him in our halls, discoursing, as he was wont, before their portraits, of the manly worth of Winthrop, the piety of Higginson, the virtues of Endicott, the patient endurance of Rogers, the learning of the Mathers, and the sagacity and wisdom of the Cookes, or illustrating to the visitor the doubtful inscription on our monument of Spanish discovery. He stands before us, wrapt in admiration of the ancient volume, delighted with the faded manuscript, and seducing away our books from their private use. His words of mirthful jest or curious lore are still echoing to our ears. He seems present with us, in all the simplicity of his life, existing in our recollections as he did in our affections.

Why thus lingers memory on the fleeting shadows of the past? Why do we thus resist the solemn truth that presses unwelcome conviction on our minds? It is because the solid virtues and gentle graces blended in his character, while they commanded our admiration, won our esteem. True in friendship, sincere in social intercourse, ardent in the discharge of duty, devoted in his attachments, he was endeared to us by innumerable ties. We know that he sleeps far away from his kindred, in the land of the stranger, but we endeavor to forget that he has ceased to walk with us on earth, and make our toils pleasures.

Mr. Baldwin was, indeed, a remarkable person; but remarkable, not so much for the splendor of genius as the milder lustre of social worth, for unpretending and peculiar power, disinterested exertion, and elevated enthusiasm. Many have been gifted with higher talent and greater intellectual force, but few have possessed so much that was excellent and amiable.

We have assembled to bear public testimony to the merits of our departed friend, and gratefully to recognise his services and our obligations. It is the appointed duty of the hour, to review the incidents of the life devoted to the promotion of our objects, to contemplate the traits of character which attracted our esteem, and to estimate the extent of our indebtedness. A plain and unadorned recital is all it is proposed to offer you, and if the record fails to render justice to the memory of our lost companion, the feelings of those who knew him will spontaneously supply the deficiency of praise.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS BALDWIN, late Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, was born in Templeton, in the County of Worcester, August 1, 1800. He was third son of Eden Baldwin, an extensive land proprietor and valued citizen of that town, esteemed for social worth and respected for intelligence and integrity. Having acquired the rudiments of learning in the schools of his native village, he pursued the studies preparatory for admission to college with diligence, during the summers of three years succeeding 1816, at Leicester Academy, and employed the winters in the instruction of youth with distinguished success. The festivity of disposition, spreading perpetual sunshine over his path, the keen perception of the ridiculous, extracting amusement from the very troubles of existence, and the perpetual flow of good humor, rendered him the favorite of his associates. The public exhibitions of the academic insti-

tution, always of popular cast, then derived attraction from dramatic representations. Engaging in these exercises with zeal, the parts he assumed, selected from comedy, were sustained with a degree of spirit which would have honored the professional artists of the stage. In 1819, he entered Harvard University. The mental habits matured and ripened in after years, were distinctly developed in the early period of his course. Gay and flowing wit, whimsical views of life and manners, innocent peculiarities of taste, capacity for patient application, unaffected kindness and conscientious regard for duty, blended in pleasant union. The light of benevolence, beaming over all, cheered the morning and brightened till the sudden close of his days. The student, lawyer or librarian, was the same sincere, artless, intelligent, true hearted and amiable being. The mingled enthusiasm and love of minute detail implanted in his intellectual constitution, were first directed to the cultivation of departments of natural history. The holidays, usually given by others to occupations more enticing, were appropriated by him to the chase of insects or the search for minerals. Often, after a whole day of toil and the journey of miles, returning with his hat wreathed with butterflies and shoulders loaded with ores, the night wore away in tracing, with triumphant satisfaction, the genealogy of the one and the family relations of the other. Sometimes, after poring over the features of some rocky fragment, until it grew too strongly upon his affections to be left behind, it was rolled, with persevering industry, from its bed to the way side, and watched and guarded, until some accommodating associate or traveller yielded to solicitations too agreeably urged to be denied, and aided in transporting the heavy treasure to his cabinet.

But, although the blossoms of the field had often greater allurements for him than the flowers of literature; though the changes of living forms seduced him from the inflections of deceased languages; and he turned from the artificial rules of written knowledge to the contemplation of the laws of order impressed on the world of matter, the regular employments of his situation were not abandoned, and he maintained respectable station in his class.

In the spring of 1823, one of those unhappy commotions, too often disturbing the repose of the colleges of New England, occurred at Cambridge. This is not the time, nor this the place, to investigate the causes or merits of the controversy which arose to mar the harmony of the instructors and instructed: nor is the task now imposed,

to draw away the mantle of oblivion charity has thrown over the errors of the wise and the follies of the thoughtless. But it is permitted, every where, to deplore the want of influence or skill, in governments assuming the responsibilities of paternal relation, to restrain their inconsiderate but generous subjects, urged on by honest though mistaken convictions of right, from acts of resistance to authority: to lament the consequences of the false policy, chastising fidelity and chivalrous feeling and rewarding cowardice and perfidy: to express indignation that the suspected should be compelled, before any tribunal, to criminate themselves, betray their associates, or violate the sacredness of truth: to regret that some, who have been among our best and worthiest citizens, should have been driven forth from their halls with alienated affections and painful recollections: and to encourage the hope, that, if such abuses still linger in the venerated seats of learning, reason may apply her lenient corrective before the axe of reform, thundering at their gates, shall hew away the relics of the severities of darker ages.

In May 1823, the connexions of Mr. Baldwin and many of his classmates with the University were dissolved, and on the 17th of June following, having chosen the profession of the law, he entered the office of the Hon. Levi Lincoln and the Hon. John Davis, then associated in business. On the retirement of the former from the bar, his legal studies were continued and completed with the latter gentleman.

While a student, his pen was busied in maintaining active epistolary intercourse with a circle of correspondents constantly enlarging; for, with him, the beginning of acquaintance was the commencement of friendship. He made frequent contributions to the public prints, often instructive, always amusing. He delighted to seize some grave error and laugh it out of countenance; to hold the mirror before some absurdity, and show how ridiculous was the reflected image. The narrative of excursions to mountain, lake and shore, and the description of a journey to the West, were communicated in the form of letters from "the Pilgrim," the appellation he loved to assume. In reviewing these early compositions, we are struck with the air of sincerity, as much as by the lively style of remark. We seem to assume the staff with him, and wander, on foot, through the thick settled regions or romantic solitudes of the West. As we pass onward, we catch the amusing incidents by the way, explore the villages, meditate among their grave yards, and pluck the

grass away from the moss grown head stones to decypher the names of those who sleep beneath. With him, we wander around the memorial mounds of ancient time, and toil with pick and shovel to develop the construction and deduce the design of the builders. We share the feeling with which he gathers into his scrip the mouldering bones, and participate the veneration with which he places under the pillow of his nightly rest the relics of the warrior or statesman of a perished nation.

In the autumn of 1825, Mr. Baldwin became an editor and proprietor of the Worcester Magazine and Historical Journal. This work, issued in monthly numbers, was intended to collect and preserve facts tending to illustrate the origin, progress and condition of the institutions, exhibit the resources, physical, political, and social advantages of the County of Worcester, and present a full and accurate account of each town within its territorial limits. It was continued during a year, forming two octavo volumes, and was then suspended for want of patronage. It was a humble but useful toil to compile the history of municipal corporations, and a humbler merit to be merely the architect of the materials of others. Standing, as it were, by the fresh earth of the new made grave, the survivor of the delightful labors shared with him who is gone, may testify without the imputation of unworthy motive, that it is no dishonor to his memory to have aided in drawing out some of the most faithful of the memoirs of our towns which have been produced. Powerful and efficient volunteers enlisted, to gather from fields before unvisited, the rich harvest of recorded evidence and traditional lore. The simple and accurate annals of Northborough by the Rev. Mr. Allen, the minute and exact account of Lancaster by Mr. Willard, the eloquent and interesting narrative of Leicester by Mr. Washburn, and the general view of the County by the late Mr. Goodwin, were acquisitions to the historic community of inestimable value. They elevated the standard in the department of literary exertion, by their example of patient research and untiring diligence. And they perpetuated some memorials of those who here raised the massive columns of social virtue, moral improvement and civil and religious liberty.

Mr. Baldwin furnished for this periodical, the History of Templeton, many essays, biographical sketches, and selections of revolutionary papers.

By such employments, the latent love of antiquity, existing in his mind, was brought into active exercise, and a passion for the things of old was roused and grew strong, till it absorbed all other inclinations. From this time, began a new era in his taste. His hand writing borrowed the appearance of black letter type. The furniture of his room was discarded as too modern, and chairs, with the carved claws of another century, supplied the vacancy. The clock which marked the passing of well employed hours, was the fruit of the rude workmanship of the first artist who here attempted to combine its ingenious machinery. Over his table, decrepit with age and tottering on palsied limbs, hung the portrait of the antiquary, gazing on the corroded coin and fancying what had been the obliterated inscription. He lived amid the emblems of decay and the recollections of the past. The authorities of history grew as familiar to his memory as the remains which surrounded him to his vision. The Pilgrims themselves were scarcely better acquainted with the hardships of the rock bound coast and stormy climate, or the bitterer sufferings of the persecutions they first endured and then inflicted, than was he who traced their footsteps with eager curiosity. Among the amusements of his leisure, was the preparation of copious indices to the *Magnalia* of Cotton Mather, the most voluminous of the writers, and the work of Hutchinson, the most philosophical of the historians of New England. These still remain to attest how diligently he drew from the fountains of knowledge.

While the habits and feelings which wove themselves into his identity were acquiring firmness and consistency, Mr. Baldwin was admitted to practise as an Attorney, and established himself in Worcester, in June 1826.

The law is a jealous mistress, demanding the sacrifice of undivided and assiduous attention, permitting no admiration of the beauties of literature and no dalliance with the muse of history. Rare gifts of nature, extensive acquirement of industry, and felicitous combinations of circumstances, must unite for the success of the forensic advocate. He who would venture where the gladiators of the bar contend for victory, needs that hardihood of temperament, which will sustain him amid the rough collisions of the struggle with others and the severer conflict with his own irresolution and timidity.

The attractive manners of Mr. Baldwin and the confidence of his integrity, gathered around him useful and devoted clients. Careless

of pecuniary gain, desiring only the supply of daily wants, a successful business gave enough of employment and emolument to content his unambitious disposition, without plunging into the heartless scramble for distinction.

It is useless now to inquire, how far he possessed capacity for attaining the higher walks of the profession, and aspiring to honors he never coveted. There is apparent contradiction in the union of light wit and profound research, which vanishes on close examination. The quality of wit rests on the quick and ready discrimination of the resemblance of ideas, and the facility of establishing correspondence or distinction before undiscovered. Legal judgment is founded on similar basis of accurate perception of differences. He who can delight by the brilliancy of sudden repartee, may convince by the acuteness of reasoning. Hence it is, that men gifted with the most vivid imagination have possessed the power of engaging in the minutest detail. The noblest strains of our native poetry have risen from the counters of banks, and writers of the most fascinating power have been devoted to avocations the most practical.

For many years, and until the morning of the very day of his decease, Mr. Baldwin preserved a diary, where he entered with the freedom of his own thoughts, his observations of society and occurrences. Too unrestrained in the expression of opinion to be trusted beyond the guardianship of friendship, it displays the "daily beauty of his life." His own simple words explain the reason why he would not if he could, have been eminent as a lawyer.

"Feb'y. 1834. In the evenings of the first week of this month, I prepared the third edition of Goodwin's Town Officer for the press. The labor is not without profit to me, for I have great occasion to be grateful that I am an antiquarian and not a lawyer, and to pity the latter. Besides, I am admonished how much mischief a man might be guilty of in the profession. My conscience should be easy on that score, for I never had any love for the law. I used it only to earn my bread, and that I procured with the sweat of the brow, and as soon as I could I left the bar."

Without the earnest devotion and ardent zeal which can alone enable its votaries to attain eminence, he maintained good standing, and unstained reputation.

On the 23d of October, 1827, he was elected member of the Amer-

ican Antiquarian Society, and was afterwards entrusted with the temporary care of its library and collections.

In 1829, Mr. Baldwin was Editor of the National *Aegis*, one of the newspapers of Worcester, and its columns were filled, during the year, with the productions of his pen. His free and flowing style and good taste, rendered the journal acceptable to the public.

Although his practise had been attended with liberal and increasing patronage, the fear of competition and the hope of more peaceful enjoyment of the moderate emolument he desired, induced him to remove to Barre, in May 1830. His residence there was protracted long enough to secure the regard of all who formed his acquaintance. In November, of the same year, he became connected with Jonas L. Sibley, Esq. now Marshal of the district of Massachusetts, and removed to Sutton. During his brief stay there, he was engaged in collecting all the existing materials for a perfect history of that ancient town. He visited the gray haired inhabitants, inquired of their ancestors, traced the line of genealogy, and followed the stream of generations to its source. Every depository of information was carefully examined. The records of church and parish, the archives of the state, the dusty files and moulded volumes, were scrupulously searched. His communion was with the dead as well as the living. A collection of Epitaphs, transcribed from the head stones of every burial place his feet could reach, is preserved, and might serve as a directory to the graves of the forefathers of the hamlets. Had his life been continued, the fragments of his labors which remain, would have been built into a work without parallel for the extent of minute particulars. It would have resembled those mosaics, where countless specks are joined into regular and beautiful figures.

The munificent founder of the Antiquarian Society, Doctor Isaiah Thomas, with expanded benevolence, contemplating the good of the future as well as the present, had bestowed a library, rich in publications of the American Press, and erected a building for the use of the institution. On his decease, ample and generous bequests provided funds for the support of a librarian, and the perpetuation and extension of those benefits his enlightened liberality gave to the public and to posterity.

In the autumn of 1831, Mr. Baldwin was elected Librarian, and in April 1832, entered upon the discharge of the duties of the office.

Knowing the disrelish he entertained for the profession of his adoption, his indifference to pecuniary advantage, his earnest desire for tranquility, and more ardent attachment to antiquarian pursuits, we are not surprised by his acceptance of a place corresponding so well with his peculiar views of happiness, with compensation so moderate as was the salary attached to the office.

The collections, accumulating during twenty years, by the unceasing flow of the bounty of the President, the donations of members mindful of the vested right of the society to every rare volume in their possession, and the favor of liberal individuals, had become immense. The newspapers of a century lay piled in vast heaps, and the masses of tracts had swelled by constant additions, as the waters of the lake gather from the rain drops. The spoils of time were mingled in confusion. No catalogue existed to point the inquirer to the object of his search, or exhibit the value and extent of wealth.

The Librarian entered on his labors with spirit and resolution. Day after day, his hand was busy in reducing to order sheets thrown off from the press, as leaves are scattered from the autumn woods. Month after month, the task was pursued with unwearied assiduity, until regular arrangement took the place of disorder, and long series of volumes were ranged on the shelves where the heavy bundles of papers had before been promiscuously piled.

The policy of the society, in accordance with the generous views of its founder, threw open its halls to the public. They became the resort of scholars, seeking instruction from the worn and blackened pages; of the traveller, gathering the good from useful institutions to diffuse their benefits in other lands; and the casual visitant, gazing on the rusted weapon of warfare and the illuminated manuscript with equal curiosity. The same ease and urbanity rendered the visit delightful to the learned and unlettered alike. Each found a communicative and courteous attendant, overflowing with pleasant narrative and peculiar learning, and few departed without finding their agreeable companion had enticed away the precious authors from their shelves, the neglected treasures from their garrets, and the good will from their hearts.

The attachment to science became absorbed, and the very love of antiquity became secondary to that ardent devotion to the institution which now occupied the mind of the Librarian. Never did individual

labor with more fervent zeal for the accomplishment of the poor purposes of ambition or avarice, than did he for the promotion of the interests of the society. He seemed to lose the consciousness of any separate existence, and to identify himself with its ends. His whole thoughts were on its prosperity. His highest gratification was the increase of its possessions; the severest suffering, the loss of opportunity to add to its stores.

A primary object with him, was the completion of the perfect series of the works of American authors. There are few living writers of our country, who were not visited by his solicitations for copies of their productions, too earnest and respectful to be denied or postponed.

A widely extended official correspondence, spread, far and favorably, the name and claims of the society, at home and abroad. The learned, on the continent, were addressed in relation to its objects. The munificent, every where, received information of the merits of the great charity, and occasion was afforded to the liberal to contribute their acceptable aid.

A few extracts from the Diary, in which was entered the record of his thoughts and acts, in his own plain manner, and from Letters to his friends, will afford examples of his exertions and merits as an officer of the society.

"May 1832. This month was employed in assorting, arranging, and preparing newspapers for the binder. I have devoted since the first of April, twelve hours in each day to this business, and such is the number of papers and the confusion of condition, that I have, thus far, made but little alteration in their appearance. Diligence, however, will do every thing, and I do not despair of soon putting them in good condition."

"July 4. It is one of the chief sources of my trouble, being happy enough in all other respects, that the Society cannot devote its funds to increase the newspapers. Since I have been here I have been unwearied in my pains to get good files of papers from all parts of the country. I have made arrangements with some forty or fifty individuals, from different sections of the United States, to procure for me ancient as well as modern sets, and to preserve all those that they have subscribed for. In this way, the collection must become exceeding valuable. I suffer no traveller to visit me, without enlisting him in my cause, and giving him directions how

to find them, and how to send them to me. 'Though I may fail of getting as many as I wish, I am sure I shall entitle myself to the gratitude of future antiquarians.'

"October 20, 1833. During the year past, about nine hundred volumes have been added to the library. In this estimate, the bound pamphlets are included, but not enumerated singly. A great portion relate to our American History, and among them are many which are rare and curious. There is no book so poor that it may not sometime be called for, and no book which is wanted for any purpose, can be regarded as useless. I have adopted a broad rule, and am so impartial I can give no offence. One day I am visited by a collector of ordination sermons: the next, by a collector of 4th of July orations: then comes a collector of Geography: another wants religious newspapers: another wants books printed in New York before 1700. I accommodate myself to all; for I want every thing, and collect every thing, and I have more zeal than the whole of them: and in this way I am kept very busy. Many things I obtain are of small value, but the course adopted will be most useful to the society."

"Jan'y. 10, 1834. I have proposed to myself the task of forming in our library a perfect collection of every book and pamphlet ever made in the country. The object is so desirable, that I feel, for such a purpose, I have an undoubted right to ask an author for a copy of his labors. I received, a few days ago, a complete list of all the publications of the Rev. Dr. Emmons, of Franklin, numbering about seventy. I have, also, nearly a complete set of the writings of Dr. Jonathan Mayhew, and so of Dr. Gay, of Hingham, and many others. The venerable Matthew Carey sent me all his publications, as far as he could find them, bound in seven octavo volumes, and accompanied the present with what he considered a complete list of his publications. But, in making this list, he fell into a mistake similar to that reported of Didymus, who read one of his own books of History without recognising himself as the author. Mr. Carey, in his account of his own publications, had omitted several he had written. Cotton Mather's publications are three hundred and eighty two, and yet not more than eighty of them are in any of our public libraries. It is desirable every thing printed should be preserved, for we cannot now tell how useful it may become two centuries hence. I procure

every thing I can in relation to the excitements or revolutions of public opinion. There are champions in every cause of this nature, who are willing to help me, and I give them no quarter until I obtain all their pamphlets."

" June 20, 1834. The happiest moments of my life are those employed in opening packages of books presented to the library of the Antiquarian Society. It gives me real, unadulterated satisfaction. It is then, that, like Tam O'Shanter, I am, " O'er all the ills of life victorious."

" Dec. 4, 1834. I received a letter from the Secretary of the American Bible Society, informing me, that institution, in compliance with my request, had directed to be forwarded to our Library, seventeen Bibles and twenty four new testaments, in English, and various other European and Indian languages."

" Dec'r 9. Better luck still. The 30th Aug. I wrote a letter to Obadiah Rich, Esq. American Bookseller in London, and, among other things, asked how our Library could be enriched with a set of the works published by the Record Commission. Twenty copies of these works, consisting of twenty four folio volumes to a set, had been presented to as many American Libraries, by the generous liberality of the British government. Our library was not included among them, and I wanted exceedingly to obtain them, and, to my entire delight, Mr. Rich has answered my letter, saying that C. Cooper, Esq. Secretary of the Record Commission, having seen my letter, gave orders to have our Library furnished with all the volumes that were not out of print, and that we shall receive above fifty of them. The whole set cost the British Government £800 the set, which is near four thousand dollars. How very liberal this!

" I took so much courage upon this news, that I sat down, and wrote to Lord Viscount Kingsborough, an Irish nobleman, requesting him to give our Library a copy of the great work prepared by Augustine Aglio, and published at his Lordship's expense, on the Antiquities of Mexico, comprised in seven imperial folios, and costing £175, equal to about eight hundred and fifty dollars; and being in a begging humor, I also wrote to the British and Foreign Bible Society, asking them for all the Bibles printed in the Asiatic and Indian Languages."

" Feb'y. 6, 1835. When I became Librarian, we had not half a

set of the United States Laws. Our set is now complete from 1789 to the present time. I have enquired diligently for them, and, at last, have succeeded. One, who has not undertaken to fill up the gaps in a public library, cannot imagine how much time and patience are required. I have filled up the laws of our own state, so that our collection is now much more perfect than any other one in the country. There are many other departments which I am daily perfecting; such as, the series of reports of Societies, &c. I cannot describe the comfort, real, substantial comfort, I have in increasing our store. My convictions grow stronger and stronger, that, if no calamity befalls us, and my health is spared, our library, in a few years, must rank among the most interesting in the country."

Great care was bestowed by Mr. Baldwin on the compilation of a full descriptive catalogue of books. This work grew under his hands, until the list it contained, swelled from 6000 to 10,000 volumes. New accessions delayed the completion, and his own successful exertions seemed likely to render the task interminable.

The Librarian's situation had become one of almost unalloyed happiness. The heavier toils of his office were fast drawing to their close. The society had directed the publication of the catalogue, without delaying beyond a fixed date for further accessions. Surrounded by warm friends, extending his acquaintance among celebrated men, conciliating personal kindness every where, increasing his own knowledge, becoming more and more useful, and feeling that his services were appreciated, there was nothing in external circumstances to mar the enjoyment of his success. He was building up a distinguished reputation, and the period of leisure was approaching, when it would have been elevated by literary exertion. He had contemplated compiling the history of the American press, and forming a *Bibliotheca Americana*, which should exhibit a description of all American productions, with notices of the authors. He looked forward with confidence to the execution of undertakings, which would have given him strong claims on the gratitude of antiquarians. But he was destined to furnish another example of the frail basis of human expectations.

Labor, scarcely relieved by any relaxation, continued confinement, and the intense devotion of mind to one engrossing subject, had impaired the health, and was fast undermining the constitution, of the

Librarian. The insidious advances of disease, preying upon his spirits and wasting his strength, threatened by its slow but certain progress to terminate his usefulness.

The great benefactor of the Society, whose name never rises on our recollection without awakening emotions of gratitude, had appropriated funds for defraying the expenses of exploring the ancient works of the West. It had early been the design of Mr. Thomas, to take effectual measures to preserve the memory of these great landmarks of history, the giant mausolea and magnificent fortresses of tribes whose very names have faded in oblivion. The volume of *Archealogia*, printed at his charge, is full of interesting details of the arts and structures of the primeval population of the continent. Yet much remained to be examined and delineated, before the effacing finger of decay should have obliterated the outlines. The hordes of barbarians, poured from the bosom of the North, while they revelled in the luxuries of Italy, spared her classic monuments. The refinement and intelligence of the present age is reckless of the heir looms of the past. The ploughshare sweeps over the ramparts of the revolution, and turns the sod of the battle plains of freedom. Modern improvement levels the circles concentering around the burial place of aboriginal kings, and the cities of civilization rise over the spot where the dust of nations had slept undisturbed in their sepulchral mounds for uncounted ages.

With the view to accomplish the wise purposes of the founder, by investigating these most interesting relics, and in the hope that the life and usefulness of a valued officer might be preserved, by employment so congenial to his taste, the Council directed the Librarian to proceed on a mission to the West, with instructions to procure accurate admeasurements, plans and descriptions of the works he might visit; to use such exertions as the state of his health and convenience might permit, to obtain papers, books and materials of history; and to communicate with the friends and members of the institution.

The journal of every day, the last sad memorial of his worth, shows how faithfully the trust was executed while existence remained. On the 3d of August, 1835, he departed from Worcester, with the intention of proceeding to the State of Ohio. Along his way, he gleaned epitaphs from the church yards, visited the scenes of historic recol-

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Such was the conclusion of his innocent and peaceful career. Strong impulses, like the control of destiny, seemed to have governed his movements, and guided him to the spot where he fell. The shadows of impending evil, like warnings from the invisible world, rested on his thoughts before his departure. The last wish expressed to his venerable father, on his farewell visit to the home of his childhood, was that he might rest on the soil of our own beloved New England.

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The lighter accomplishments were joined with firmness of principle and persevering industry. He was patient of labor and research to an extraordinary degree. An active mind was connected with a busy hand. Few young men had acquired wider spread or better reputation, and on none were higher expectations of future usefulness rested.

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Contented with any condition in which he might be placed, he deduced good from the privations and cares that would have depressed a temperament less elastic.

Indifferent to pecuniary considerations, and generous to the limit of his means, his liberality often relieved distress at the sacrifice of his own pleasures. Wealth can bestow freely from its superfluity, and many will give the money they value little, who would refuse the expenditure of time more precious than coin. With him, labor, attention, earnest personal service were frankly offered.

His was a manly sincerity above all guile. There was a directness and simplicity which commanded confidence. We could have leaned on his integrity, in our darkest hour of peril, with full assurance that the trust would never be betrayed.

He had acquired an immense stock of genealogical knowledge. From almost every person of his own name in the United States, he had sought, and from most obtained, the story of their families. The descent and connexions of his townsmen, friends, and even the visitants of the institution, were noted on his memoranda as fully as on the leaves of their own ancestral bibles.

He had made himself master of the biography of the books committed to his care. The devices of the early printers, the progress of the typographic art, the anecdotes connected with rare works and eccentric or unfortunate authors, all the curiosities of literature, were stored in his memory.

His taste led him more to the study of minute facts than to extensive views of subjects. His mind was better satisfied to reduce the general principle into its particular elements, than by the comparison and combination of individual circumstances to obtain one comprehensive result.

Few among us had examined more cautiously or closely the evidences on which repose our hopes of the future. Few were more familiar with the dividing points of contending sects, and few had more diligently examined the doctrines of Christianity, in the original language of their transmission, and the various versions of other tongues.

It is wisely ordered that doubt should sometimes rise to darken the soul. But however the footstecs may wander in the mists of error, when we draw near the termination of life's pilgrimage, immortal

truth dawns on the eye of mortal reason, as the light beams on the traveller from the windows of his home as he approaches. There were periods when the clear perceptions of the realities of the better world were dimmed, but the eclipse was transient and had long since passed away. There were those, sincere and ardent in their sacred trusts, who confuted the arguments perverted ingenuity had raised, and stripped the unsound sophistries of their false vesture. Their precepts, like the seeds which lie dormant in the earth, in due time sprang up in their verdure. The companions of the Librarian can testify how deep was his devotion. Religious feeling had grown strong, and while it shrunk from display, and was careless of ceremonial observances, pervaded his spirit with calm and tranquil influences.

It is not for human wisdom to trace the mysterious workings of that Providence, merciful in its severest visitations. We were called to resign the friend we loved, with his affections unchilled, his faculties unimpaired, his virtues unstained. In the vigor of manhood, with the anticipations of the future bright before him, he exchanged time for eternity. It was the certain relief from the possible infirmity and feebleness which follow the pressure of sickness and the waste of years. To the pure, the loosing of the silver chord has no terror. It is realizing the best and highest hopes, giving for the sufferings and sorrows of earth the immortal health and infinite happiness of the spirit's land. His was an enviable end. It was his to perish in the performance of duty, as the soldier sinks on the field of his fame. It was his high privilege to fall, and leave no enemy behind who could set foot on his early grave and accuse him of wrong: to enjoy the most desirable of all possessions, the esteem of the wise and the love of the good.

"The evergreens selected by the taste and planted by the hand of the late lamented Librarian," say your Committee, "are the fit symbol of the memory of that excellent officer, as cherished by the many who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and particularly by those who, from official association, intimately knew his merits and his worth."

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS,

WITH A

CATALOGUE

OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS,

1839.



FIFTY-THIRD

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COUNCIL

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

MAY 29, 1839:

WITH THE

REPORT

OF

THE LIBRARIAN.

WORCESTER:
PRINTED FOR THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,
BY T. W. & J. BUTTERFIELD—REGIS OFFICE.

1839.

At a meeting of the American Antiquarian Society, held
in Boston May 29, 1839, on motion of Professor Simon
Greenleaf,

*"Voted, That the Report of the Council, with the Report of the
Librarian, and a list of the Officers and Members of the Society, be pub-
lished for the use of the Society, under the direction of the Council."*

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

MAY 29, 1839.

THE Council of the American Antiquarian Society, in compliance with the provisions of the by-laws, on the fifty-third semi-annual meeting, respectfully submit their report of the condition of the funds, library, and concerns of the institution, at the close of the month of May, 1839.

The state of the treasury will be most conveniently explained by comparison of the investments and revenues, with the necessary and contingent expenditures.

By the order of the Society, at the May meeting of 1834, the sum of twelve thousand dollars was invested in one fund, and the interest was appropriated, in conformity with the appointment of the donor, Doct. Isaiah Thomas, for the payment of the salary of a librarian, for the purchase of books and antiquities, and for meeting the incidental charges of the institution.

Another fund of five thousand dollars was established, and the accruing income appropriated for defraying the expenses of exploring the ancient monuments of the continent, preserving descriptions of the remains of the aboriginal population, and aiding in the increase of the library and cabinet.

The general fund, now amounting to about three thousand dollars, remained, and was charged with current and extraordinary expenses.

The revenues are derived from the interest on these funds, amounting together to \$23,125; from the income of a principal of eight hundred dollars received from the donor in notes

secured by mortgages of lands in Dixmont in Maine; and from the rents of an estate in Middlebury, Vermont, yielding about fifty dollars annually.

The available productive property of the society, exclusive of the buildings of Antiquarian Hall, of the land in Worcester, and of the library and cabinet, which have a value beyond any estimation in money, is now \$24,725 04.

The condition of each of the funds is exhibited in the full and detailed report of the treasurer, Samuel Jennison, Esq., and will be seen by the following abstract of his accounts:

1. Balance of the Library Fund,	\$12,945 13
2. Balance of the Fund of Antiquities and Researches,	7,219 58
3. Balance of the General Fund,	2,960 33
4. Amount of Mortgages in Dixmont, Maine,	800 00
5. Value of Middlebury estate, estimated at only	800 00
	\$24,725 04

The yearly income is about fourteen hundred and eighty-two dollars.

Some expenditures necessary for the maintenance and support of the Society, are certain in amount and regular in their recurrence.

Among them are the salaries of the only two officers receiving any pecuniary compensation, which have been graduated on a scale of rigid economy. The Treasurer has had the responsibility of the management and investment of a capital of more than twenty-four thousand dollars, and the care of the receipt and disbursement of the interest, coming in and paid out in small sums. So prudent and faithful has been his administration of this department, that nothing has been lost, and the principal remains safely invested in permanent securities. During the last year the Treasurer has charged for his services, *thirty dollars*; a sum which would not be an adequate compensation to another for the mere labor of making the proper entries on the books of the transactions of business. The salary of the Librarian has been fixed at *six hundred* dollars annually. That officer devotes almost the whole of his

time to the discharge of his regular duties, and has been constantly engaged in promoting the objects and interests of the Society with a degree of assiduity, energy, and zeal, which cannot fail to produce the most useful results. It must be considered fortunate for the institution to have enlisted in its service, so much experience and capacity ; and it is gratifying that those who have been entrusted with the active management of its affairs, have sought the largest portion of the remuneration for faithful and valuable labors in the gratification of antiquarian taste and the reward of doing good.

The preservation of the buildings of the Society requires annual appropriations. The renewal of those parts of the structures impaired by decay, and the improvements of the interior of the halls for the convenient arrangement and use of the increasing library, will demand an annual expenditure not less than one hundred dollars.

With the ordinary success of collection and the usual liberality of donation, the sum of one hundred dollars will be required for binding into volumes, the tracts, newspapers, and manuscripts, and renovating decayed books, during the year.

The average charge of printing, if confined to advertising notices of meetings and communicating information to the members on subjects connected with the interests of the Society, will be small: united with the payments for stationery, postage, transportation, fuel and light, the aggregate may be estimated at about seventy-five dollars the year.

The necessary expenses will be about nine hundred and five dollars annually, as will appear by the following recapitulation :

1. Salaries of the Treasurer and Librarian,	630 00
2. Repairs and improvements,	100 00
3. Binding tracts, newspapers, and books,	100 00
4. Printing, transportation, fuel, &c.,	75 00
	<hr/>
	\$905 00

When these sums shall have been deducted from the annual income, there will remain about five hundred and seventy-seven dollars unexpended.

In the former reports of the Council it has been fully explained that some encroachments were made on the original amount of the funds, under the direction and by the order of the Society. Two wings were added to Antiquarian Hall to furnish accommodations for the swelling collections, in 1833, at the cost of \$1,037 02: the publication of the second volume of Transactions, in 1837, containing the excellent memoir on the languages of the Indian tribes by the Hon. Albert Gallatin, and Gookin's history of the Christian Indians, was made at the expense of about \$1,100: the edition of the catalogue of the library in a large octavo volume, required the payment of about eight hundred dollars. These disbursements, for objects of permanent utility, changed some portion of the moneys from the investments which yielded pecuniary revenue into a form in which they will afford an income of reputation, and aid the objects of the Society by extending the knowledge of its works.

The sums which have been received by the treasurer in money, amounted to \$23,661 84: the funds remaining in his possession, exclusive of the estate in Vermont and the mortgages in Maine, are \$23,125 04: the difference of these sums, being the excess of expenditure over income, is \$536 80.

The Council, desirous of restoring the integrity of the original funds, and considering the deficiency which had been produced by the expenditures for useful purposes, as a debt due from the Society to posterity, for whom they are trustees, endeavored to make a system of economy operate as a sinking fund for the redemption of the arrears. Between the May and October meetings of 1838, the balance was reduced by the reimbursement of \$211 15:—during the past six months \$55 96 have been repaid: previous to the annual meeting in October next, two hundred dollars more may be extinguished by the appropriation of the surplus revenue.

Some considerable extraordinary work will be needed on the roofs of the Halls, for draining the grounds around, and to secure the foundations of the buildings, which may absorb two hundred dollars of the disposable income.

A debt of two hundred and twenty dollars for binding two hundred and twenty volumes of newspapers, which has been recently incurred, must be drawn from the treasury immediately. A large portion of this sum will ultimately be restored by the collection of some arrears of interest not included in the accounts from which these computations have been derived: but this payment will, for the present, entirely exhaust the resources of the year.

From these statements it will be obvious, that it must be proper to forego the purchase of books, and to rely for the increase of the library on the liberality of members and the generosity of the public. The necessity of retrenchment, should prevent, for a season, the attempt to make any considerable publications. The interval of the suspended motion of the press, may be well employed in seeking authentic memorials of the relics of the aboriginal nations of the west, or the evidence of facts which have been supposed to prove the early discoveries of the Northmen in the east.

Whenever the improved condition of the treasury will permit new acquisitions by purchase, it will be desirable to devote the first moneys which may be saved from necessary appropriations, to extend one department of the library now deplorably scanty. At the earliest time when it shall be possible, there should be placed on the shelves, Lord Kingsborough's edition of the work of Augustine Aglio; the folios of Frederic de Waldeck, on the antiquities of Mexico, the ruins of Palenque, and the archaeology of Central America; and those other rare or recent works which illustrate the history of the southern continent.

Improvements have been made during the spring season on the grounds of the Society. The belt of trees flourishing on the front of the Hall has been extended along the sides and rear, and at no distant period, the library will be embowered amid the shade of evergreens, forming walls of perennial verdure to separate the still retreat of the antiquarian from the busy stir of the modern world.

Free access to the collections has been permitted to visitors.

During one hour of each day the halls have been open to every citizen, whether attracted by curiosity or in pursuit of information : during all hours they have been accessible to every student of history or of literature who sought the use of the library. The task of attendance thus imposed on the librarian has been onerous. It has been believed that such liberality would secure, as it would merit, the favor of the public for an institution which shared its benefits freely with the whole community.

An excellent memoir on the library has been presented to the Council by the Librarian, Samuel F. Haven, Esq., and is communicated to the Society with this report. It explains the accessions made during the past semi-annual period, the plans proposed for future collections, and the system of arrangement he has matured.

The extent of the library may be measured with some accuracy by examining the catalogue of 552 printed pages, enumerating more than twelve thousand volumes ; the value would only be realized by diligent inspection of the alcoves and study in the halls.

Among the oldest books in the collection, are, a treatise on natural history, unfortunately divested of the first and last sheets which might verify the date of production ; but supposed, from internal evidence, to have been printed as early as 1470, within fifteen years after the invention of metal types, and only forty years after the discovery of the art of printing ; full of grotesque cuts of the animals, plants, and minerals described in the text, strangely rude efforts of the first designers for the letter press of Germany : a copy, in perfect preservation, of the beautiful Venitian Bible of 1476 : the "Summa Theologia," of Raynerius, magnificently illuminated, at Venice, in 1486 ; and editions of the holy scriptures in many languages, esteemed to be rarities of typography.

The library has been enlarged by a gradual but regular increase, year by year. It cannot be hoped that it will ever be able to bear favorable comparison in the amount of literature or science, with the depositaries of the works of the learned,

founded in the cities, or at the universities, or sustained by the patronage of the federal and state governments. In some departments, however, the Society may be considered already rich.

The remains of the libraries of the Mathers, were many years since given to the Society: many "lesser composures" of the fathers of New England were preserved by these men of much learning, which otherwise might have perished. The late president, Dr. Isaiah Thomas, enjoyed rare advantages for gathering the works of American authors, and presented all his collections. A large bequest of German periodicals and books was made by the will of the Rev. Dr. William Bentley. One hundred and twenty-eight volumes, illustrative of the topography, local history, and antiquities of England and Wales, and of genealogy and heraldry, were recently bestowed by the President, the Hon. Thomas L. Winthrop.

About fifteen thousand separate tracts have been bound in 1,035 volumes of pamphlets. They embrace series of sermons, orations, anniversary discourses, reports of societies, festival addresses, occasional publications on religious and political controversies, and all those sheets thrown off from the press, so soon perishing unless carefully gathered, but which are of singular interest in illustrating the spirit of past times.

The collection of newspapers may be described as *good*, without fear of exaggeration: there are 1,251 volumes, many of them embracing two or three annual files within the same covers. Commencing in 1704 with the News Letter, the first of the newspapers printed in North America, the series of these publications down to the revolution of 1774, is probably more full and perfect than any other in the United States: since the adoption of the constitution it is extensive and of tolerable completeness. The limitations of the uses of the funds, have prevented subscriptions for the periodicals of our own times, and it has been necessary to depend, for the most part, on the generosity of individuals for the increase of the stores of materials for the history of the present. By the great industry and perseverance of the Librarian, valuable additions

have been made to this department, which are indicated by his report.

The efforts of the same officer, directed to perfect the collection of the legislative and judicial records of the several states of the union, it is gratifying to learn, have been crowned with success. It is understood, although not certainly known by any official information, that the series of public documents of Maine, have been made ready for transmission. The requests of the Society for the aid afforded by communicating public papers, have never been denied: but they have frequently been delayed and postponed. Should the object ever be accomplished, the student and statesman may be enabled to find, gathered in one place, the materials for the history of legislation and jurisprudence, and comparing the laws of the sister republics with each other, may obtain useful hints for social improvement.

The Society have many manuscripts; among them, some which are rare and curious. It is believed that these treasures may be much increased. There is scarcely a family of the descendants of the early planters coming from the fountains of population in the old world to spread cultivation and improvement over the western continent, who have not files and boxes of papers, letters, or memorials of the early wars, illustrative of history and biography. The improved diligence of modern writers has formed a just appreciation of the peculiar value of these fragments, which other societies have carefully gathered. It is believed that if the members could be interested to explore the treasures of the garrets, to procure copies of old records, and to extract original writings from the places of their repose, that a collection might be soon formed having extraordinary interest.

The Cabinet occupies one large room, and has been arranged with great neatness. Beside an extensive collection of foreign and native minerals, and of shells, many of them of singular beauty and high scientific value, but not peculiarly appropriate to the objects of the institution, there are old specimens of the arts of Peru and Mexico; a vast number of

implements, utensils, weapons, and ornaments of the northern Indians, and some most interesting memorials of the planters of New England, and of the patriots of the revolution. The coins exceed two thousand in number; some hundreds bear the impress of the emperors of Rome: there are many stamped with the pine tree of the province and the Indian of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and most of those which have been issued in the several American States are preserved. Almost every variety of the continental currency has its representative in the piles of paper money.

Among the portraits, are those of John Winthrop, John Endicott, Francis Higginson, John Leverett, John Rogers, the Mathers from the ancestor Richard of Dorchester, Thos. Prince, Gov. Burnett, and others of the early worthies of New England; of Doct. Isaiah Thomas and Hon. Thomas L. Winthrop, the presidents, and of C. C. Baldwin, the late librarian, among the benefactors of the Society. The engravings and maps are numerous, and some of them are curious specimens of the arts of design.

The communications proposed by Mr. Haven in the annexed report, will be useful in directing the attention of those to whom they are addressed, to the wants of the Society, and the means of supply. They will serve to apprise each member that he is entitled to exercise the privilege of depositing his own works, and any rare book, or curious article held by himself or his friends.

The statements which have been made, will be considered as justifying the Council in congratulating the Society on the continued prosperity of the institution; on the permanency and extent of its foundation, and on the prospect of increasing usefulness.

For the Committee of the Council,

WILLIAM LINCOLN.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

THE Librarian respectfully submits to the Council of the American Antiquarian Society his first semi-annual report of the year 1839.

It appears from the entries in the Book of Donations, that, since the meeting of the Society, in October, four hundred and five *pamphlets*, and fifty-nine *volumes of books*, have been added to its collections.

This enumeration is exclusive of such public documents as are regularly received from Congress or from State Governments.

A number of files of valuable *newspapers* have been presented, and a very considerable quantity in a broken and miscellaneous condition.

A small package of *Roman Coins*, received from Commodore Jesse D. Elliott, through the hand of Governor Lincoln—a few *engravings*—a large and handsome *chart of George's shoal*—several smaller *plans*—a bundle of *MSS. sermons*, preached in Salem a century since—and some small articles for the Cabinet, complete the list of additions.

Among the volumes are several Scandinavian works, and old northern chronicles of Icelandic and Danish history, presented by Rev. William Barry of Framingham.

The Librarian was authorised to purchase, of the same gentleman, an Icelandic Dictionary, offered at the price paid by him in Copenhagen.

For the moderate sum of five dollars, a comprehensive Lexicon, Icelandic and Latin, containing 871 pages quarto, un-

bound, an Icelandic Grammar, and a copy of Snorre Stuleson's history, in Danish, have been, accordingly, transferred to the Society.

These volumes were collected, some years since, by Mr. Barry, in Copenhagen, while engaged in investigations relating to the discovery of America by the Northmen, before the time of Columbus. Other engagements unfortunately prevented the completion of his inquiries; but he has a mass of manuscript notes and memoranda, which he has been prevailed upon to say, shall, when leisure permits, be put into a connected shape, and communicated to the Society.

The unarranged Newspapers, that have been gradually accumulated in a detached and imperfect state, have been carefully looked over and sifted. By means of the materials already in possession, with the aid of parcels obtained in various quarters, two hundred and twenty volumes have been made so nearly perfect as to justify their being bound. These have, therefore, been put into a neat and substantial binding, and form a valuable increase to that department of the Library. Particular pains have been taken to continue the series of those papers that had been previously preserved. The Boston Courier is completed to the close of 1838. The Boston Gazette, of which there were already twenty-eight volumes, extending from 1719 to 1811, has been continued in a regular series, to 1828. The Connecticut Courant, which before ended at 1791, has been taken up again at 1799 and brought down to 1835, with the exception of the years 1806, 1811-12* and 1832. Spooner's Vermont Journal has been continued in regular series from 1803 to 1819. There have been added twenty years of the National Intelligencer—eighteen years of the National Gazette—fourteen of the United States Gazette—fourteen of the New York Herald, and thirteen, each, of the Boston Recorder, the Christian Watchman, and the Christian Register. Other papers, of value as the organs of a party, or a sect, have been obtained in files of from three to ten years.

* The volumes for 1811 and 1812 have been since obtained.

The additional shelves, prepared last season for newspapers, are not quite sufficient for this increase.

The duty of arranging the Library according to a scientific method, required of the Librarian by the by-laws, has been the subject of much consideration. Efforts have been made to ascertain what systems have been adopted in other libraries, and to learn the views of persons having the advantage of experience. The result is a conviction, that, only a very general arrangement of books upon the shelves with reference to subjects, is practicable or expedient, and that the classification in the Librarian's Catalogue should be simple and comprehensive. It is often less difficult to find a book under a general head, than to trace it through minute subdivisions, where a difference of opinion may exist as to the propriety of its position. An exemplification of the arrangement proposed by the Librarian for his book of entries, accompanies this report. It will be perceived, that, being based upon the great objects of the Society, viz. to ascertain the past, preserve the present, and keep pace with the *progressive* history of America, the titles of the classes have relation to that design; the minuter sub-division being that of dates or periods of time. Foreign works, and others not affecting our history, must of course be placed under heads appropriate to themselves.*

In connexion with this arrangement it may be proper to allude to the means now in operation for supplying the materials for the several departments there enumerated.

In regard to *Antiquities*, properly so called, no definite

* This classification consists of three comprehensive divisions, viz. 1st, *Antiquities*, embracing all matters antecedent to actual history; 2d, *General History*; 3d, *Local History*;—and thirteen sub-divisions of the two last named heads, viz. *History of Legislation*—*Judicial History*—*History of Parties, or Politics*—*Religious History, or Rise and Progress of Sects*—*History of Moral and Benevolent Associations, Institutions, and Enterprises*—*History of Education*—*History of Arts and Sciences*—*History of Trade and Manufactures*—*Military History*—*Diplomatic History*—*Tabular History or Statistics*—*Geographical History*—and *Literary History, or Literature*. All documents and facts relating to these, being placed in the order of the periods to which they refer.

measures are at this time employed, in the way of research or discovery. With the present resources of the Society, it is necessary, perhaps, rather to wait for opportunities than to form plans requiring the provision of means for their execution.

To supply the departments of *Legislative* and *Judicial history*, the circular alluded to in the Librarian's last report as having been prepared for the purpose, has been forwarded to the several governments of the United States, in the hope that the examples of some of the States may be adopted by all, and that copies of *all* documents, published by legislative authority or requisition, may be lodged in the Library of this Institution. No official information of the result has yet been received.

The progressive history of *parties, religious sects, moral and benevolent associations and enterprises, education, arts and sciences, &c.*, may, to a considerable extent, be found in the newspapers, reports, occasional addresses, and magazines, that are collected and preserved for this purpose. Fortunately, almost every association, or party, has now its periodical organ, for explaining and enforcing its plans and principles. The most important of these, at least in our own vicinity, will probably find their way into the Antiquarian Library without great expense to the Society.

The disposition among associations, authors, and editors, to deposite their publications in the Library, is apparently increasing. The American Colonization Society, the American Education Society, the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, the Editor of the Boston Courier, and the Editor of the Christian Watchman, continue to transmit their publications as they are issued. In other cases voluntary propositions have been made to preserve papers with a view of depositing them at the end of the year. The Wisconsin Enquirer, a new paper, the first in that young territory, and the organ of its government, is constantly sent by some unknown friend.

The value of these store-houses of facts and incidents, is diminished by the quantity of extraneous matter by which these facts are surrounded and buried. If it were practicable

to obtain the leading periodicals of our country, religious, political, literary and scientific, as they are issued, it would be easy for the Librarian to preserve an *index rerum* of important matters found in them, having a bearing upon our history, by means of references placed under those heads to which the subjects relate. A valuable collection of references to minor historical materials might thus be gradually accumulated.

In compliance with the wish, expressed by the Royal Geographical Society of London, to be admitted to an interchange of Transactions, the Librarian, as directed by the Council, made up a package of books, consisting of the Transactions and Catalogue of this Society, Thomas' History of Printing, Lincoln's History of Worcester, and the Worcester Magazine, and committed it to the kindness of George Bancroft, Esq., Collector of the Port of Boston, for a chance of safe and direct transmission to that learned Association.

In concluding this report, the Librarian begs leave to suggest the expediency of furnishing each member of the Antiquarian Society with a sheet containing the heads into which its collections are divided, with the request, that as books or documents appropriate to its objects, come to their knowledge, the titles, price, and the place where they are to be found, may be entered under the head to which the works respectively belong. If such memoranda were annually returned to the Librarian from different sections of the country, information, difficult to be procured by other means, and very important to the design of the Society, would be obtained. This measure would impose on members no troublesome or laborious duty, while its tendency would be to keep alive a remembrance of their connexion with this Institution, and an interest in its progress.

All which is respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL F. HAVEN, *Librarian.*

CATALOGUE

OF THE

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

MAY, 1839.

WORCESTER :

PRINTED BY T. W. & J. BUTTERFIELD—ÆGIS OFFICE.

1839.

СИМФОНИЯ

Симфония для оркестра
и фортепиано в соль мажоре

Альбом для исполнения

Симфонии композитора Иоганна

Баха-Св. Иоанна

Симфония для оркестра и фортепиано в соль мажоре
сolo виолончели и скрипки

— Альбом для исполнения
сolo виолончели и скрипки

— 666 —

OFFICERS

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION, NOV. 1812.

Elected.

PRESIDENTS.

Retired.

1812 ISAIAH THOMAS, Worcester.

1831

1831 THOMAS LINDALL WINTHROP, Boston.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

1812 WILLIAM DANDRIDGE PECK, Cambridge.

1816

1812 WILLIAM PAINE, Worcester.

1816

1816 AARON BANCROFT, "

1831

1816 TIMOTHY BIGELOW, Medford.

1821

1821 DE WITT CLINTON, New York.

1828

1828 THOMAS LINDALL WINTHROP, Boston.

1831

1831 JOHN DAVIS, Worcester.

1831 JOSEPH STORY, Cambridge.

COUNCILLORS.

1812 TIMOTHY BIGELOW, Medford.

1816

1812 AARON BANCROFT, Worcester.

1816

1812 EDWARD BANGS, "

1818

1812 GEORGE GIBBS, Boston.

1814

1812 WILLIAM BENTLEY, Salem.

1820

1812 REDFORD WEBSTER, Boston.

1816

1812 BENJAMIN RUSSELL, "

1814 SAMUEL J. PRESCOTT, "

1819

1815 WILLIAM STEDMAN, Newburyport.

1816

1815 OLIVER FISKE, Worcester.

1825

1815 NATHANIEL PAINE, Worcester.

1820

1815	GEORGE THACHER, Biddeford.	1819
1815	KILBORN WHITMAN, Pembroke.	1820
1816	EDWARD H. ROBBINS, Milton.	1830
1816	FRANCIS BLAKE, Worcester.	1817
1816	JAMES WINTHROP, Cambridge.	1821
1816	LEVI LINCOLN, Sen., Worcester.	1817
1817	LEVI LINCOLN,	"
1817	ABIJAH BIGELOW.	"
1819	MARK LANGDON HILL, Georgetown, Me.	1821
1820	WILLIAM JENKS, Boston.	
1820	CHARLES LOWELL,	"
1820	SAMUEL JENNISON, Worcester.	1823
1820	EDWARD D. BANGS,	"
1820	JOSHUA THOMAS, Plymouth.	1821
1821	THOMAS L. WINTHROP, Boston.	1828
1823	SAMUEL M. BURNSIDE, Worcester.	
1824	JOHN DAVIS, Worcester.	1831
1825	ISAAC GOODWIN,	"
1828	JAMES C. MERRILL, Boston.	
1830	FREDERIC W. PAINE, Worcester.	
1831	JAMES BOWDOIN, Boston.	1833
1831	JOHN GREEN, Worcester.	
1832	EDWARD D. BANGS, Worcester.	1838
1832	JOHN PARK, Worcester.	
1833	JOSEPH WILLARD, Boston.	
1838	EMORY WASHRURN, Worcester.	

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.

1812	THADDEUS M. HARRIS, Boston.	1831
1812	WILLIAM JENKS, Boston.	1816
1814	SAMUEL M. BURNSIDE, Worcester.	1823
1816	ABIEL HOLMES, Cambridge.	1828
1823	SAMUEL JENNISON, Worcester.	1826
1825	WILLIAM LINCOLN,	"
		1831

SECRETARIES FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

1831	THADDEUS M. HARRIS, Boston.	1832
1832	EDWARD EVERETT, Boston.	

SECRETARY FOR DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

1831	WILLIAM LINCOLN, Worcester.
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RECORDING SECRETARIES.

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ANNUAL REPORT,

OCTOBER 23, 1839.

At the annual meeting of the AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, held on the twenty-third day of October, 1839, at Antiquarian Hall in Worcester, the Reports of the Council, Treasurer, and Librarian, were submitted.

State of the Treasury.

The funds and property in the Treasurer's hands amounted to \$24,919 15 on the 17th of October, 1839, invested as follows:—

1. Balance of the Library Fund,	\$13,196 21
2. Balance of the Fund of Antiquities and Researches,	7,395 29
3. Balance of the General Fund,	2,727 65
4. Estate in Middlebury, and Dixmont Mortgages, . . .	1,600 00
	<hr/>
	\$24,919 15

The excess of the expenditures over the income of the Society occasioned by the appropriation of some part of the original funds for buildings and publications, was in May last \$536 30: it has been reduced to \$342 69, and will soon be extinguished by the process of repayment now in operation.

State of the Library.

The Library has been kept in good order. During the year since the last annual meeting there have been added 948 tracts, 103 volumes, and more than 200 folios of newspapers have been neatly bound. Some portraits have been added to the collection of paintings, and coins and curiosities deposited in the cabinet.

ABSTRACT OF THE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

THE additions to the Society's Library, since the statement rendered in May last, consist of five hundred and forty-three pamphlets, and forty-four volumes of books. A brazen sacramental vessel, of unknown antiquity, and an ancient silver coin have been placed in the Cabinet; and a portrait of the late Judge Chandler, of Worcester, has been added to the collection of paintings.

The pamphlets are of course somewhat miscellaneous; most of them, however, have an intrinsic value, and it is a part of our system to consider nothing of the kind unimportant. Almost every household has some place of deposit, in which these matters accumulate, and among them the antiquarian, taught by experience, feels justified in the expectation of meeting interesting and valuable relics. Samuel M. Burnside, Esq. has transferred one of such collections to the rooms of the Society.

Among the books may be particularised an elegant copy of Delafield's Inquiry into the Origin of the Antiquities of America, from Hon. Thomas L. Winthrop, President of the Society—two copies of an historical work upon the Currency of Massachusetts, by Rev. J. B. Felt, one from the same source, the other presented by the author—Prescott's History of the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, deposited by that gentleman himself—a parchment bound folio, containing the entire works of Hippocrates, from F. R. Hassler, Esq. and eleven volumes of ancient works, scientific, philosophical, and theological, as remote in date as venerable in appearance, presented by Samuel Wells, Esq. of Northampton.

A set of Bouchette's elegant and expensive Topographical Maps of the Province of Lower Canada, has been bestowed by Hon. Daniel Waldo of Worcester.

Doctor Usher Parsons of Providence has deposited a number of his own works upon medical subjects, and a little volume upon the battle of Lake Erie, by Hon. Tristam Burgess.

Several communications have been received from foreign countries. George Finlay, Esq. a member of this Society,

resident in Greece, has transmitted a publication of his own on the Topography of Oropia and Diacria; and Governor Galindo has sent from Central America, a written Memoir on the ruins of Montagna. From the Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Lisbon have been received two large volumes of the Memoirs of that Institution, together with a literary Discourse of which he is himself the author.

The collection of unbound pamphlets has been looked over, and those ascertained not to be duplicates assorted for binding. As some convenient sets of Reports, Catalogues, Occasional Addresses, Sermons, &c. may be made up from the duplicates, the expediency of binding these together is suggested.

A few additional files of Newspapers have been arranged. The large number lately put into binding now await the provision of a suitable place for their accommodation.

The work of making an intelligible and systematic reference upon the Catalogue to the location of books and pamphlets on their shelves, is in a state of progress.

All which is respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL F. HAVEN, *Librarian.*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF MEMBERS.

United States.

Hon. John Quincy Adams, *Quincy.*
Hon. John Davis, *Boston.*

Foreign Member.

M. Frederic de Waldeck, *South America.*

OFFICERS
OF THE
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,
ELECTED OCTOBER 23, 1839.

PRESIDENT.

Hon. THOMAS L. WINTHROP, LL. D.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

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Hon. JOSEPH STORY, LL. D.

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SAMUEL F. HAVEN, Esq.





Remarks and Resolutions

COMMEMORATIVE OF

THE HON. JOSIAH QUINCY, LL.D.

1864

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

OCTOBER, 1864,



REMARKS AND RESOLUTIONS

COMMEMORATIVE OF

THE HON. JOSIAH QUINCY, LL.D.

BY THE

American Antiquarian Society

AT THEIR FIRST MEETING AFTER HIS DEATH.

Worcester, Massachusetts.

MDCCLXIV.

THE President, as requested by the Society, transmitted a copy of the resolutions, relating to the late Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY, LL.D., to his son, Hon. Josiah Quincy, with the following letter:—

HALL OF THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,
Worcester, Oct. 26, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have the highest satisfaction in performing the honorable duty imposed on me by the American Antiquarian Society in that part of the proceedings of their meeting on the 21st instant, copied below, which I beg that you will present to your family as an expression of affectionate and profound respect for your honored father, JOSIAH QUINCY, LL.D., and of just appreciation of his services and virtues, and of deep regret that the blessing of his life, made more precious by every added year, will be hereafter only enjoyed in its revered and instructive remembrance.

I also tender to your family the assurance of my personal sympathy in the private grief for which public honors are a cold alleviation, and into which a stranger may not intrude.

I have the honor to be most respectfully yours,

STEPHEN SALISBURY, *President.*

Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY, Boston, Mass.

EXTRACT

FROM

THE "PROCEEDINGS" OF THE SOCIETY.

At the Annual Meeting of the American Antiquarian Society, held at Worcester, on Friday, October 21, 1864, the following remarks, in behalf of the Council, were submitted by Mr. GEORGE LIVERMORE:—

At our last Annual Meeting, when we commemorated the completion of the first half-century of our existence as an association, we all listened with rare gratification to the letter of a venerable founder of the Society, whose interest in its welfare had continued from the first, and who had, during his life of more than ninety years, in various ways promoted the objects for which it was formed.

His great age, so far beyond the ordinary period of human life, forbade us to hope for a much longer continuance of his presence among us. When, therefore, on the first day of July last, the announcement of the decease of JOSIAH QUINCY was made, it created no surprise. The measure of his days, of his use-

fulness, and of his honors, was full. His life was completed.

The numerous other institutions with which he was connected have already paid their tribute to his worth; but, however they may have anticipated what might otherwise have been a fitting eulogium from the American Antiquarian Society, this does not deprive us of the pleasure, or absolve us from the duty, of recognizing his claims to honor as an Antiquary in the noblest sense.

The historical writings of Mr. Quincy entitle him to a high rank among the authors who have enriched this class of American literature. If he had left no other record of service to his country, his published works, from the importance of the subjects to which they relate, and the ability with which these are treated, and from the lofty principles those works illustrate and inculcate, would cause his name to be held in honorable remembrance.

That one whose time was so nearly engrossed by official duties should have been able to do so much and so well as an historian and a biographer, would surprise us, if we did not know that most of his literary productions were the natural outgrowth of his active life. Whenever called to any public service, he, like a true antiquarian, began by reverting to the past, and making himself thoroughly acquainted with whatever had preceded that had relation to the position he was to hold; and the investigations which he

made primarily for his own information and guidance, he published for the benefit of others.

His largest and most elaborate work, the History of "that University which was the very cradle of learning in these parts of the earth," is in its nature almost a treatise on the literary, ecclesiastical, and civil antiquities of New England. In that institution, founded amidst the toils and sufferings of the first settlers, were reflected, more clearly than almost anywhere else, their principles and purposes as well as their manners and customs. The minute details of their contributions and sacrifices for its support, in view of their circumstances and their object, are full of moral dignity; and the antiquary, in bringing to light such examples, becomes a most eloquent moral teacher.

Mr. Quincy was called to the Presidency of the University in 1829. There was hardly an institution in the country of greater interest than Harvard College, whose history from its beginning had been blended with whatever concerned the maintenance and advancement of sound learning and civil liberty in the American Colonies and the United States. But hitherto there were to be found only scattered notices of its origin, action, and influence, which awakened, but could not satisfy, the curiosity even of those who knew it best from having been nurtured in its bosom.

In 1833, was published the excellent, summary, though uncompleted and posthumous, volume of Mr. Peirce, the librarian of the University. But a full

History was still a desideratum. For more than a quarter of a century, a vote of the Corporation, requesting the President to prepare a History of the University, had stood upon the records of that Board. Mr. Quincy was not the man to shrink from any duty which his official position devolved upon him; and, having been specially invited by the Corporation to prepare a discourse to be delivered on the 8th of September, 1836, the second centennial anniversary of the foundation of the University, "in commemoration of that event, and of the founders and patrons of the Seminary," he not only performed the task then assigned him, but announced his purpose of preparing, as soon as it was practicable, the long-desired History of the institution.

What he began from a sense of duty, he continued with affectionate zeal till he completed the work,—an enduring monument to the founders and benefactors of his venerable *Alma Mater*.

When a new chapter shall be added by another hand, the history of the administration of President Quincy will not suffer by a comparison with that of any of his distinguished predecessors.

Before his removal to Cambridge, Mr. Quincy had already begun his "Municipal History of the Town and City of Boston during Two Centuries." This, like the History of the University, originated in his official position. His natural attachment to the town in which he was born had been strengthened by

repeated evidences of confidence and respect on the part of his fellow-citizens. He had been invested by them with the most important offices in their gift; he had been their representative in both branches of the State Legislature; and, for four successive terms of service, he had represented them in the Congress of the United States. It was as Judge of the Municipal Court of Boston, that he made the memorable decision, that the publication of truth with good intent is not a libel,—a decision which, though questioned and gravely censured at the time, has since become the settled rule of law.

Called from the bench to the chief magistracy of the City, he entered upon the administration of its affairs with that indomitable energy which ever distinguished his public life. The recent transition from a town to a city government had brought with it the necessity of important changes in old modes of proceeding, and of the establishment of new institutions. Here the wisdom and foresight, as well as energy, of Mr. Quincy were fully exercised; and he lived to see even those of his measures which at the time met with only partial approval, and others which encountered the strongest opposition, fully justified by a later public opinion.

At the request of the municipal authorities, he delivered “An Address to the Citizens of Boston on the 17th of September, 1830, the Close of the Second Century from the first Settlement of the City”; an elo-

quent commentary on its history, full of noble sentiments, and a model production of its kind. He gave, in a condensed form, the result of much antiquarian research into the manners and customs, laws and principles, of former generations; and he did not fail to enforce in the strongest terms the lessons they suggested.

The larger History of Boston, which, after a lapse of twenty years, was resumed, and was finished in February, 1852, at the close of the author's eightieth year, is mainly devoted to an account of the City government during the period of his mayoralty. In the preface he says: "It appeared to the author, that a *municipal* history of the Town, and an accurate account of the transactions in the first years of the City government, would be useful and interesting to the public in future times, and was due to the wisdom, fidelity, and disinterested services of his associates." In the naked record of his administration, we find the best eulogy on his own ability and his devotion to duty.

The "History of the Boston Athenæum," also, grew out of Mr. Quincy's relation to the institution and its founders and early patrons. They were his cherished friends. He was himself one of the original contributors to its fund. For several years he was its President.

When, in 1847, the corner-stone of the spacious and elegant edifice in Beacon Street was laid, he was requested to deliver an address on the occasion; and

was afterwards solicited to write out and extend his remarks for publication. The result was a volume of between three and four hundred pages, containing a documentary history of the Athenæum, followed by admirable biographical notices of its deceased founders. It was a labor of love to commemorate the services of that little band of "ingenuous scholars" who originated and established this institution, "dedicated to letters and the arts."

The biographical works of Mr. Quincy, no less than his Histories, were produced in response to some call of obvious duty.

Believing, to use his own words, that, "of all monuments raised to the memory of distinguished men, the most appropriate and least exceptionable are those whose foundations are laid in their own works, and which are constructed of materials supplied and wrought by their own labors," he prepared, from the papers bequeathed to him by his father, a Memoir of that illustrious patriot, which will continue to be read with the greatest interest and admiration, as long as the love of liberty is cherished, and the story of its apostles, defenders, and martyrs is welcomed.

The "Life of Major Samuel Shaw," prefixed to his "Journals," and prepared, at the request of the proprietor of them, by Mr. Quincy, the only surviving friend who could do him justice as a benefactor of his country, was undertaken, the author says, from no other motive than the gratification afforded by being

instrumental in perpetuating the memory of one whom he had known in his early youth, and of whom, after the lapse of fifty years, he "could truly say, that, in the course of a long life, he had never known an individual of a character more elevated and chivalric, acting according to a purer standard of morals, imbued with a higher sense of honor, and uniting more intimately the qualities of the gentleman, the soldier, the scholar, and the Christian."

Two of Mr. Quincy's biographical productions were written at the special request of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The brief but excellent "Memoir of James Grahame," author of the "History of the United States of North America," contains all that we know of that worthy man and faithful historian. Mr. Quincy had great respect for the moral purity and intellectual elevation of Mr. Grahame's character, and held his work in high estimation. He felt that it was "incumbent upon some American to do justice to the memory of a foreigner who had devoted the chief and choicest years of his life to writing a history of our country, with a labor, fidelity, and affectionate zeal for the American people and their institutions, which any native citizen may be proud to equal, and will find it difficult to surpass." This Memoir was first printed in the "Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society;" and was afterwards prefixed to a new edition of Mr. Grahame's History, as revised and enlarged by the author, and published, in this

country, after his death, under the auspices of his biographer.

In the eighty-seventh year of his age, Mr. Quincy completed and published his "Memoir of the Life of John Quincy Adams,"—a fair volume of over four hundred pages. Connected by family ties, nearly his co-eval, and intimately acquainted with his private life as well as his public career, Mr. Quincy was peculiarly fitted to perform the task assigned him. It was, however, to Mr. Adams's public life that the biographer principally addressed himself. Besides the advantages derived from personal knowledge, and a recourse to his printed works, he was favored with access to copious authentic unpublished materials.

His "chief endeavor," as he says, was "to render him the expositor of his own motives, principles, and character, without fear or favor, in the spirit neither of criticism nor eulogy." He thus produced a work, which, whilst it partakes largely of the nature of an autobiography, constitutes also a most important chapter in the general history of the Republic.

If, at any time, a difference of opinion may have existed between the biographer and his subject on minor matters, they were indissolubly united in the sentiment of the grand avowal of Mr. Adams, inscribed under the portrait that adorns the volume: "I live in the faith and hope of the progressive advancement of Christian liberty, and expect to abide by the same in death."

The key-note of Mr. Quincy's public life, and of most of his writings, is found in that invocation which, in his father's last will and testament, follows a bequest, to the son, of the works of the great writers on free government: "May the spirit of liberty rest upon him!"

Inheriting the principles of this illustrious patriot, he consecrated his life, and all his powers, to their maintenance. Born when the sentiments of the Declaration of Independence were ripening into action, and living as a young man with those who made good the Declaration, and founded this Republic, he understood the difficulties that beset their path when they were called on to form a Constitution for the government of all the States. In common with the great body of the statesmen of that day, South as well as North, he felt that there must ever be an irrepressible conflict between freedom and slavery.

An unfortunate delusion, fostered by the specious declarations and promises of a few members of the Federal Convention, who only ventured to ask for a temporary toleration of slavery, and averred, that, if let alone, they would willingly, in a short time, rid themselves of it, induced the framers of the Constitution to commit to the several States the general power of peaceful emancipation. Mr. Quincy always distrusted the sincerity of those members who seemed to him faithless to the principles of the Constitution in insisting upon this as a condition of its acceptance.

He knew that any compromise by which eternal principles are postponed to temporary policy, sooner or later, fails.

When, at last, this essential antagonism resulted in open violence that aimed to destroy the nation itself, and thus the Government became invested with the right, and placed under the obligation, to preserve the life of the nation at the expense of its mortal foe, Mr. Quincy thought he saw the hand of Providence opening a way, as righteous as it was necessary, for the extirpation of the evil.

His faith in the permanency of the Republic never faltered. He had none of the timidity or of the despondency which often accompanies extreme old age. "The victory of the United States in this war is inevitable," were his words but a few months before he died, addressed to the President of the United States, in a letter remarkable for its vigor and its clearness of statement. He looked for a speedy suppression of the Rebellion. He believed that his country would come out of this terrible conflict, purified and justified in the eyes of the world.

With devout gratitude for all the blessings which attended his long and eventful life, and with a firm faith in the goodness and mercy of his heavenly Father, our venerated associate passed to his eternal home.

Our chief purpose, on the present occasion, has been less to speak his eulogy, already elsewhere pronounced in a classic as well as in the vernacular tongue, than

to enrich our records with the enumeration of some of his merits as they are shown in those of his works that are intimately connected with our own objects as members of an American Antiquarian Society.

Ere long the marble statue and the granite column will arise to perpetuate his memory. But the erection of a still more enduring monument will be the noble task of the historian, who, to illustrate the spirit of the free institutions of our country, as exhibited in the character of one of her greatest citizens, shall portray the Life and Times of Josiah Quincy.

The Hon. LEVI LINCOLN addressed the Society as follows :—

Mr. PRESIDENT,—The Report of the Council, as is usual and becoming such occasions, makes mention of those melancholy providences, which, in the interval between our meetings, are continually removing from our association honored and beloved members of this Society by death. We are now reminded, in touching and appropriate terms, of the decease, since the last meeting, of one of the most distinguished of our number. The late Hon. Josiah Quincy was of the earliest, and, at the time of his death, was the oldest, of our associates. He was, eminently, a great and good man; and, I think, having regard to all considerations, the most *marked man of the century* among us. I should be ungrateful, indeed, if I failed, in connection with the proceedings of this meeting,

to express my entire sympathy in the notice of his death, and my most hearty concurrence in the tribute of respect paid to his memory, by the impressive language of the Report.

The courtesy and kindness of this venerable man placed me, *personally*, under many obligations. More than a half century since, I entered the Senate of Massachusetts, the youngest of its members. Mr. Quincy was among the seniors at the Board. It was at the period of the embargo and other obnoxious, restrictive measures of the Government, and on the very eve of the declaration of war against England. The spirit of party ran high; and there was bitterness of feeling, and often much acerbity of language, in debate. Differing widely, as we did, in political opinions, and opposed to each other in regard to public measures, I recollect from him, in my unpractised position, no instance of unfriendliness, no one word of unkindness. Through subsequent, successive years, in the discharge of arduous public duties, I was sustained and greatly cheered by expressions of his favorable regard, and not unfrequently became a delighted listener to his sagacious counsels, and a partaker of his elegant hospitalities. He will long be remembered by *others*, also, for the kindness of his heart; and his name be held in honor, by the country, for the brightness of its fame.

I beg leave to offer, for the consideration of this meeting, the following resolutions:—

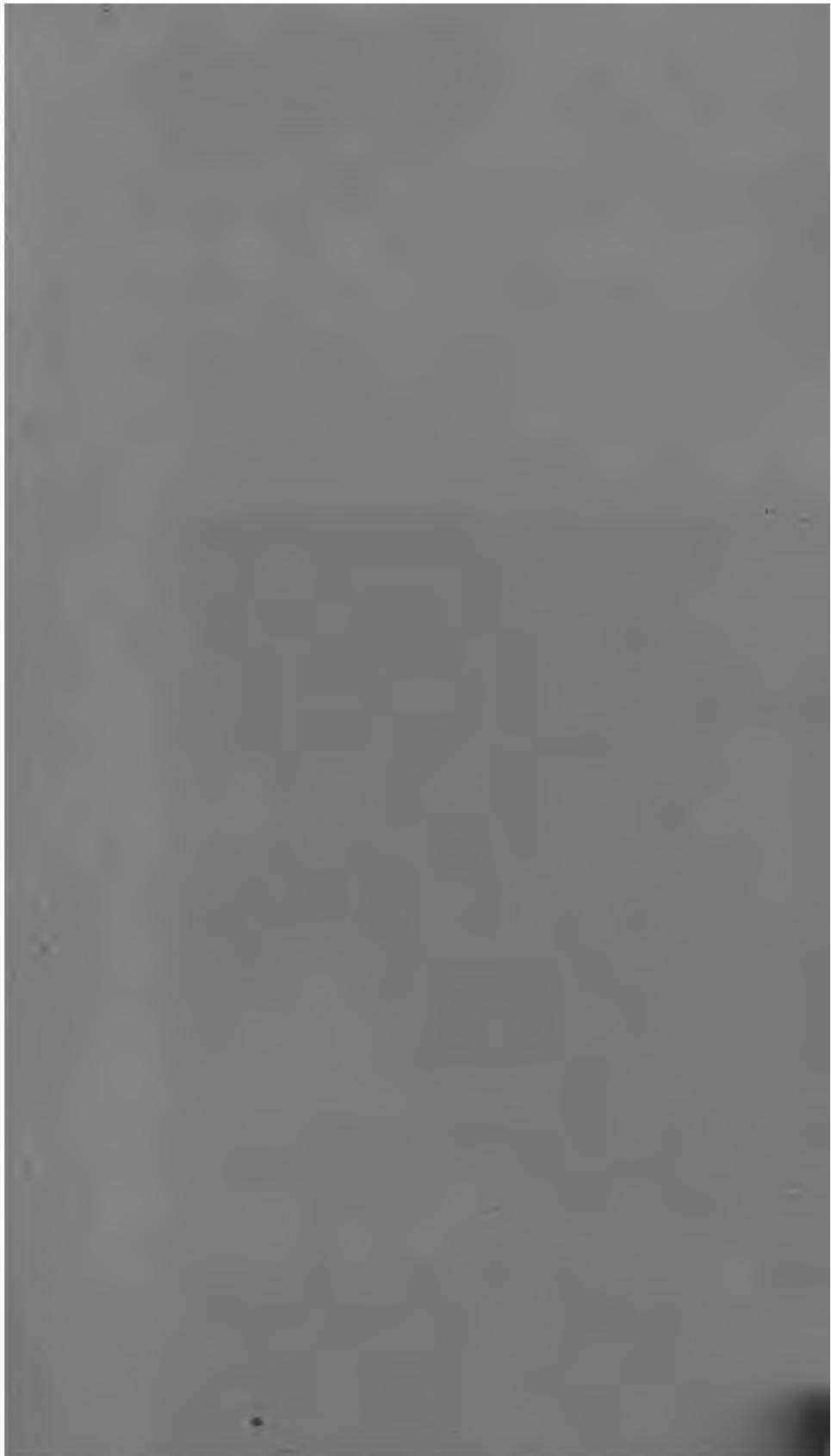
"The impressive event of the decease of the late Hon. Josiah Quincy, LL.D., having occurred since the last meeting of this Society, it becomes his associates, on this first subsequent opportunity of their assembling, to give expression to their admiration of his elevated character,—their high appreciation of his eminent public services,—their testimonial to his protracted years of virtuous living, and to his active, enduring, and unceasing labors of distinguished usefulness to extreme old age. Therefore,—

"*Resolved*, That the American Antiquarian Society will ever hold the memory of their late associate, the Hon. Josiah Quincy, LL.D., in affectionate and honored regard, as the erudite scholar and liberal patron of science, the upright jurist, the patriotic statesman, the pure-minded and exemplary citizen, and the unselfish, enlightened, faithful, and devoted public servant; alike in all the relations of civil, social, and private life, firm in purpose, and true to principle and the loftiest conceptions of personal duty.

"*Resolved*, That in the death of President Quincy, while we lament that we shall meet him no more as an associate in our councils, whose mere presence would be a benediction, we bow, in reverent submission and gratitude, to that gracious Providence, which released him from the pains and infirmities of exhausted nature, and leaves his name and example as a precious memory in the hearts of contemporaries and posterity.

"*Resolved*, That the foregoing resolutions be entered upon the Records of the Society, and that the President be respectfully requested to transmit a certified copy thereof to the family of the deceased."

These resolutions were unanimously adopted.





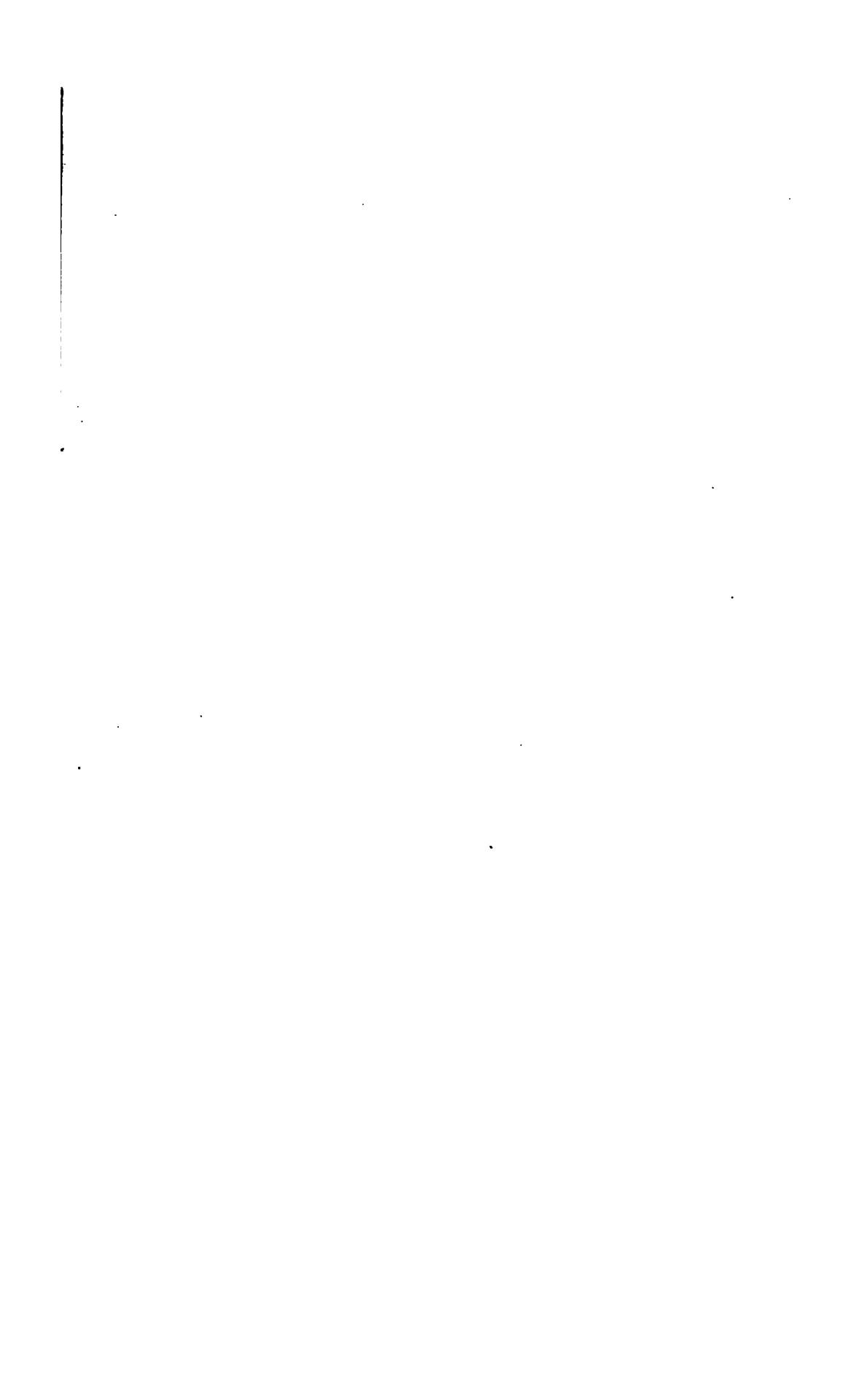
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

APRIL 25, 1877,

BY

JOHN D. WASHBURN.



REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

AT THE

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, IN BOSTON,

APRIL 25, 1877,

BY

JOHN D^{ARL} WASHBURN.

Worcester:
PRESS OF CHARLES HAMILTON,
1877.

WITH RESPECTS OF THE WRITER.

PRIVATELY PRINTED.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE Council of the American Antiquarian Society respectfully present their semi-annual report. To the reports of the Librarian and Treasurer, which form a part of the general report of the Council, reference is made for a full statement of the condition of the library, and the funds in the possession of the society. The increase in the number of volumes is gratifying as an evidence that the unfavorable financial condition of the country, which prevents the undertaking of new business enterprises and checks the growth of old, has less effect upon enterprises of that higher character and purpose of which this society is a representative. Our library grows; its use increases. It is more and more consulted, not only by our own members, but by general students of history, and especially by the student of American and New England history, to illustrate which its collections are peculiarly adapted. And the Council again call attention to the fact that the treasures of our library are at the service of all seekers after historic truth, and that they are at all times welcome, whether connected with this or any other of the so-called learned societies, to consult them freely, and without restraint. It was not the intention of the founder of this society, nor has it been that of any of those to whose care these valuable aids to study and research

have been confided, to hide them under a bushel, or keep them out of the constant service of mankind.

It is proper that the Council should add also, that the invested funds of the society are in a sound and healthy condition. Few of its securities have been reduced materially in value by the peculiar stress to which all investments have been subjected during the past three or four years, and as a whole the market value of the society's investments is greater at the present time than their valuation on the books of the Treasurer.

At the Annual Meeting of the society in 1876, it was voted that in their opinion it is desirable that the building be enlarged as proposed in the Report of the Council, and that that portion of the report be referred to the Council with authority to act. Under this authority the Council have proceeded to adopt plans for an enlargement presented by Stephen C. Earle, Esq., architect, which are substantially the same exhibited at the Annual Meeting. They have contracted for building and completing the same with Messrs. Norcross Brothers, who were the lowest bidders for the work, and are citizens of Worcester, and men of substantial character and high reputation as contractors and builders. The preliminary excavations have already been made, and the laying of foundations is now going on. The addition to the present building is, by the contract, to be covered in by August, and the entire work completed by the first of January next. There is no reason to doubt that the whole will be completed within the amount of the fund which the society has at its disposal for this purpose. While formal congratulations may properly be postponed till these expectations shall have actually

become accomplished facts, it is difficult for those who have felt the pressure of this great want to refrain from an expression of grateful satisfaction that the end is assured and so nearly attained. With this addition, it is reasonable to believe that the treasures of the society can be stored conveniently and accessibly for examination, till the end of the present century, beyond which period it is not necessary now to look.

The Honorable Emory Washburn, LL.D., died at his residence in Cambridge, on the 18th day of March, 1877, at the ripe age of seventy-seven years. Throughout the winter, and up to the moment when he was prostrated by the attack of disease which proved fatal three weeks later, he had been engaged in constant and laborious service in the popular branch of the Massachusetts Legislature. That body looked to him as a faithful adviser, whose learning and wisdom were united to an energy and industry which have found few parallels in the lives of public men in this country. The utterances on the floor of the House in commemoration of his life and services were heartfelt and impressive. Senior in age and membership, having served in the same body half a century before, with his natural force in no material degree abated, he had won the first place in the affections of his associates. Sole survivor of the Legislature of 1826, he joined in the labors and debates of that of 1877 with a fresh and manly vigor, and his last service there was in earnest and effective advocacy of an important measure of public charity. A clear intelligence, a warm and cordial greeting, a kind and sympathetic heart, an ambition to be and to do all that is excellent,—these are the traits and characteristics which his latest associates in public life recognized in him, and on

which they dwell in tender and affectionate remembrance.

He was born in Leicester, Massachusetts, on the 14th of February, 1800. He entered Dartmouth College in 1813, and there spent two years, but finished his course at Williams College, where he was graduated in 1817. In 1821, having completed his legal studies, he was admitted to the bar at Lenox. He returned to his native town, and there practiced his profession with good promise of success, and represented Leicester in the Legislature for two terms, in the years 1826 and 1827. In 1828 he removed to Worcester, then a town of four thousand inhabitants.

In 1831 he formed a partnership in practice with Governor Davis, a pleasant and cordial friendship with whom he maintained till the death of that upright and eminent man. In 1841 and 1842 he served as a senator from Worcester County under a system of distribution which resulted in the selection of abler men for that position than are usually brought forward under the present District system. In 1844 he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, but his habit of mind was better adapted to and found freer scope in the contests of the bar, and he resigned his position on the bench in 1847. In 1853 he found it necessary to seek relaxation and refreshment from professional labor in a visit to Europe. Returning to Massachusetts in the autumn of that year, he was chosen Governor of the Commonwealth. His administration was worthy of the honorable name and reputation he had acquired at the bar, but the great wave of Native-Americanism rolled over the State in 1854, and he was not re-elected. In 1855 he was appointed Lecturer at the Law School in Cambridge, and in 1856 was offered the Bussey Professorship of Law.

The duties of that position he discharged with marked fidelity for twenty years, resigning it upon conviction, feeling that he should retire before any part of his capacity for usefulness had been lost. Few professors have enjoyed in so full a measure the confidence and affection of the students of that renowned seat of learning. None have been more fortunate in the effort to inspire the young men of the bar with lofty ideas and pure purposes. It was not his power as a lecturer upon legal topics, though respectable, by which he exerted the greatest influence on the mind and future course of the student, but his private conversations, and advice based on long experience and practical wisdom derived from constant relations with the affairs of the world of business and jurisprudence, and an earnest, unaffected interest in the welfare and prospects of every young man to whom he stood in the relation of instructor and adviser. Especially to those students who came from a distance and were strangers to the general social life of the community, he was a companion and friend.

The active occupations of his life did not prevent him from attempting and accomplishing some important works of historical and professional importance. His "Sketches of the Judicial History of Massachusetts," though unsuccessful pecuniarily, was a work of real merit, as advancing time makes more and more apparent. He also published a "History of Leicester Academy." His "History of Leicester," is a valuable and satisfactory contribution to that important branch of learning. His "Law of Easements and Servitudes" was well received by the profession, while his "Law of Real Property" is entitled to be ranked among the great successes of authorship, as a text-

book of permanent value, cited with invariable respect by the bench and bar throughout the country. His contributions to the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and of our own,—of one of which he was a Vice-President and of the other a Councillor,—have been numerous and valuable. He was the President of the Massachusetts School for Idiots and Feeble Minded Youth, a noble charity, in which his interest was unfailing. He was an active or honorary member of several learned societies besides those named above, and of many other active charities, both public and private,

The Reverend Andrew Bigelow, D.D., the eldest member of this society, died at his residence in Boston, on the first day of April, 1877. Although his life had been passed in less conspicuous positions than those in which Governor Washburn was placed, he was yet well known in literary and philanthropic circles, and has left behind him a record of honorable usefulness.

He was born in Groton, Massachusetts, on the 7th of May, 1795, and was the eldest son of the Hon. Timothy Bigelow, a distinguished member of the bar of Massachusetts, for more than twenty years a member of the Legislature, and for eleven years the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Dr. Bigelow entered Harvard College in 1810, and graduated in 1814 with high honors, in a class of which James Walker and William H. Prescott were members. He entered upon the study of the law, but a domestic affliction turned his thoughts in another direction, and he resolved to study for the ministry. He became a student at the Divinity School at Cambridge, and in 1817 visited Europe

for the purpose of continuing his theological studies. He was for a year connected with the Edinburgh University in the department of Divinity. A book written by him at about this time entitled "Leaves from a Journal in North Britain and Ireland," was received with marked favor. Published in Boston, in 1821, it was republished in London and Edinburgh, and is said to have met with an extensive sale.*

Dr. Bigelow's life after his return to his own country was one of constant scholarly industry. Apart from the ordinary studies of his profession, he was a laborious student of the Oriental languages, and acquired a good degree of familiarity with the Arabic, Sanscrit and Persian tongues, in addition to the knowledge of Hebrew common to the educated members of the clergy of that day. He held for a time the honorable office of Regent of Harvard University, an office which no longer exists, but which in its day was important and by no means a sinecure.

In 1820 he went to Eastport, Maine, where he took temporary charge of a new parish. He was afterwards settled over the Congregational Society in Medford, a ministry which continued for three years, and which he resigned partly from failing health, but mainly, perhaps, from a desire to visit some of the Oriental countries, in the lan-

* The European Magazine said of it, "We have read these sketches with great and increasing pleasure, and we know of few works of a similar character executed in a happier manner. The style is original, chaste, and classical, and the manner lively, buoyant, and what some critics would call refreshing. His excursion from Edinburgh to London will bear to be read over and over again with renewed pleasure and delight. So will also his tour to Loch Katrine and the Grampians; his visit to the grave of Col. Gardiner, his pilgrimage to Melrose and Dryburgh Abbey, but particularly his Day in Lorn. The latter is exquisitely romantic, and whoever can read it without pleasure, can never hope to derive pleasure from works of a descriptive and romantic character."

guage and literature of which he was so well versed. This journey was undertaken in 1827, a year in which the war between Turkey and Egypt made a visit to those countries or their immediate neighborhood inconvenient if not dangerous. The main purpose of his journey failed therefore, but the results of his observations, as far as they extended, were afterwards set forth in a volume entitled "Travels in Malta and Sicily, with Sketches of Gibraltar," which he published in 1831. The historian, Prescott, in a note in his *Philip II.*, speaks of this book as "a work full of instruction, in which the writer, allowing himself a wider range than that of the fashionable tourist, takes a comprehensive survey of the resources of the countries he has visited, while he criticizes their present condition by an enlightened comparison with the past."

In 1828 he was called to the charge of the Unitarian Society in Washington, where his ministrations were acceptable, but where he was unable to make a permanent home. In 1833 he was settled over the Unitarian Society in Taunton, where he served acceptably for ten years. It must always be a subject of regret, that the abundant materials he gathered while there for a History of Taunton, were destroyed by fire, and the work necessarily abandoned.

Resigning the parish in Taunton in 1843, he became the pastor of the Unitarian Church in South Danvers, where he remained till 1845, receiving in 1844 the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Harvard University.

And yet, though the thirty years since his graduation had thus been marked by constant activity and industry, the real work of his life was now to begin. Remembered as an accomplished scholar, a faithful minister and an agreeable

writer, he is best remembered as an earnest, self-denying missionary among the poor and destitute of Boston. To this work he devoted thirty years, beginning in the prime of manhood and ending only when his life had long passed the prescribed limit of human days. And, while thus removed in his sphere of duty from the opportunities for distinction and honor which public life affords, he earned at least these two rewards,—the gratitude of thousands to whom his ministrations brought relief, and cheer and consolation, and the honest self-approval which, outweighing the applause of the multitude, is a rich and abiding recompense.

The remark of Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun, that “he knew a very wise man who believed that if a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation,” is familiar to all students of English literature. To whom in this remark, sometimes erroneously ascribed to the Earl of Chatham, Fletcher refers, is unknown. If, however, it may be allowed to the student of to-day to apply it to any one of the contemporaries of Fletcher, it may well be applied to Edward Johnson, the author of the “Wonder-Working Providence of Sion’s Savior in New England.” Himself intimately associated with the original enactment of many of the Colonial laws, a member of the General Court of the Massachusetts Colony for a term of nearly thirty years, longer than perhaps any other of the men of 1630, if not longer than any law maker in the Colony, Province or Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he yet seemed to believe above all things in the power of poetry to illustrate all the incidents and passing events of colonial history, and invoked its aid on the smallest provocation, to exemplify the transactions of town

meetings, or commemorate the death and services of ministers, statesmen and magistrates. In the edition of the "Wonder-Working Providence," published a few years since by the accomplished William F. Poole, Esq., the editor, in his introduction, alludes to this disposition of Johnson, in terms which perhaps hardly do justice to his attempt in verse "to keepe in memory the Names of such worthies as Christ made strong for himselfe in this unwonted worke of his." Mr. Poole says of his poetry, "It is shocking beyond description. It is of a character which neither gods nor men can abide."

The conjecture of our learned associate, Mr. Haven, that Johnson had read Barnaby Googe, and from him obtained a model for the verses with which his book is so liberally interspersed, and that of Mr. Poole, that his idea of writing these verses came from a perusal of "Good News" seem neither of them necessarily well founded. Verses were, upon the whole, the fashion of that day in New England, and an interesting review might be written of the attempts at poetry made by the early colonial writers.

It was in or about the year 1642 that Mrs. Anne Bradstreet, "that Pattern and Patron of virtue, the truely pious, peerless and matchless Gentlewoman, right Panaretes, Mirror of her age, glory of her sex," as John Norton, in his poetical funeral eulogy, terms her, wrote her "Dialogue between Old England and New, concerning their present troubles." Though not a writer whose productions in verse have a right to claim the unmixed admiration of posterity, she was a favorite in her day, and the publication of her poems excited great interest in the colony. The friendly critics of her time, whose comments have come down to us, in the

various editions of her poems, express themselves with warmer admiration than will probably be felt by her readers of later generations. She was fond of the quartette system of grouping subjects, and her leading poems in this volume are the "Four Elements," the "Four Humors in Man's Constitution" (Choler, Blood, Melancholy and Flegme), "The Four Ages of Man," the "Four Seasons of the Year," the "Four Monarchies of the World" (Assyrian, Persian, Grecian and Romaine). The candid critic will confess that this last and longest poem is tiresome, yet he will not be found dissenting from the opinion of "H. S." who says in his epigram published in the volume,

"I've read your poem, Lady, and admire
Your sex to such a pitch should ere aspire"

even though he cannot conscientiously add after the reading,

"Go on to write, continue to relate
New Historyes of Monarchy and State,
And what the Romans to their Poets gave,
Be sure such honor and esteem you'll have."*

More widely known to his contemporaries and to posterity than Mrs. Bradstreet, yet as a poet, or rather versifier, as far less meritorious as more widely known was William Bradford, Governor of Plymouth Colony. His quaint metrical production entitled "A descriptive and historical

* A very beautiful edition, of two hundred and fifty copies only, of the entire works of Mrs. Anne Bradstreet, in prose and verse, edited by John Howard Ellis, the lamented son of our associate, Rev. Dr. George E. Ellis, was published by Abraham E. Cutter, of Charlestown, in 1867. Three editions of her poems had before been printed; the first in London, in 1650; the second in Boston, in 1678; the third in Boston, in 1758.

The only complete publication of her extant productions "in prose and verse" is that of Mr. Ellis, which is illustrated and annotated with much literary taste and scholarship.

account of New England, in Verse" might, but for the respect we pay to the memory of the eminent early fathers, be classed among the specimens of doggerel. The prosaic, though "meetered" descriptions of the soil and its products contained in this poem cannot be read without a smile, when it is remembered that they were intended by the author in all seriousness :

" All sorts of roots and herbs in garden grow,
 Parsnips, carrots, turnips or what you'll sow,
 Onions, melons, cucumbers, radishes,
 Skirets, beets, coleworts and fair cabbages."

* * *

" Eat, O my friends (saith Christ) and drink freely,
 Here's wine and milk and all sweet spicer,
 The honey and its comb is here to be had,
 I myself for you have this banquet made."

Governor Bradford had a tender feeling for his poetry, like that of the parent for a favorite child. Some of his verses he especially commended in his will. "In special I commend to you a little book with a black cover, wherein there is a word to Plymouth, a word to Boston, and a word to New England: with sundry useful verses." Possibly he apprehended the time would come when Boston, growing populous and wealthy, would dominate the Commonwealth and exercise its power to the disadvantage of the other portions of the State, as even now, were we to judge by the occasional murmurs of legislators from the rural districts, it is tempted to do. If such a time should come, let these "useful verses" to Boston be called to mind.

" Thou now hast growne in wealth and store,
 Doe not forget that thou wast poore,
 And lift not up thyselfe in pride,
 From truth and justice turne not aside.

Remember thou a Cotton had,
 Which made the hearts of many glad;
 What he thee taught bear thou in minde,
 It's hard another such to finde.
 A Winthrop once in thee was knowne
 Who unto thee was as a crowne,
 Such ornaments are very rare
 Yet thou enjoyed this blessed pair.
 But these are gone, their work is done,
 Their day is past, set is their sun
 Yet faithful Wilson still remains,
 And learned Norton doth take pains.
 Live ye in peace, I could say more,
 Oppress ye not the weake and poore
 The trade is all in your own hand,
 Take heed ye doe not wrong the land,
 Lest he that hath lift you on high,
 When, as the poore to him do cry
 Doe throw you downe from your high state,
 And make you low and desolate."

"Our Forefathers' Song" of which the author is unknown but which was composed about the year of Johnson's arrival in America, has a sprightliness of composition which inclines the reader to the impression that it could not have been written by him. Johnson is always serious—and lines like those of which the prelude is,

" New England's annoyances you that would know them,
 Pray ponder these verses which briefly doth show them;"

and whose jingle is illustrated by the following :

" If fresh meat be wanting, to fill up our dish,
 We have carrots and turnips as much as we wish;
 And is there a mind for a delicate dish
 We repair to the clam banks, and *there* we catch fish;"

while they could not have been the production of the author of "Wonder-Working Providence," nor suggested to him a model to follow, yet are part of the colonial poetry, and show the disposition of another class of mind to marry its ideas to verse, if not "immortal" at least entertaining.

Far more ambitious in style, and possessing much genuine classical merit, is Morell's latin poem on New England. It is written in hexameters, of which the quantities will compare favorably with those of the English verse-makers of the present day, and is not without the merit, especially in the more descriptive parts, of considerable poetic imagination. It begins with a few introductory lines, which remind the reader a little of the opening lines of a great Epic poem.

*" Hactenus ignotam populus ego carmine primus
Te nova, de veteri cui contigit Anglia nomen,
Aggregdior trepidus pingui celebrare Minerva."*

The verse labors in some portions, especially where the resources of the language are heavily taxed for a descriptive catalogue of the trees and animals of the new country, though the author struggles manfully.

*" Per placidi variae, pellique, gruesque palumbes
Mergulus, et phasianus, anas, cignus Jovis, ales.
Penelopesque, columbae, perdix, accipitresque
Et Capitoli aves variae tum carne sapora." —*

Morell came with Capt. Robert Gorges, in 1623, and on the return of Gorges to England, was left at Plymouth, where he passed a year in inquiring into the character and resources of the country. The idea of writing this poem may well be supposed to have been suggested to him by the "poem of Stephen Parmenius of Buda, in celebration of the voyage of 'the illustrious and valiant Knight, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, undertaken for the purpose of conducting a colony to the New world.'" The poem of Parmenius was published in 1585, and as Morell was a scholar, and interested in the subject, it is hardly possible he should not

have seen and read it. The critic of the present day would however probably award to Morell the merit of writing better latin verses than Parmenius.

Thomas Hinckley, Governor of New Plymouth, wrote in the year 1680 a short poem on the death of Josiah Winslow, "the first Governor born in New England." It is an earnest tribute of affectionate respect, but the "epitaph" with which it concludes, shows that the standard of gubernatorial poetry had not greatly advanced since the time of Bradford.

" Winslow renowned in this dark cell doth lie
 His body's here: his soul nor name did die.
 Great ornament and crown to the Colony
 Here born—most pleasant was his company.
 O Grave! thou must not him detain alway:
 Christ will him raise again at latter day."

It might be profitable, and perhaps entertaining, to cite other specimens of the poetry of the colonial period, but those quoted above, coming from such various and representative authors, illustrate the tendency of the men of that time, to give way to the passion for rhyme, and express their views metrically, whenever occasions arising in the colonial experience would seem to justify it. It is not surprising then, the genius of poetry being in the air, that a man like Johnson should court it on his own account, and not as the follower or imitator of any one predecessor or example.

Moreover, in estimating the relative poetic powers of these men, and in justice to their memory, it is to be remembered that to the task of handling such subjects the strongest powers sometimes prove inadequate, and that even "holy Mr. Herbert" wrote lines no better than these:

" Religion stands on tip-toe in our land
 Ready to pass to the American strand,

Where height of malice and prodigious lusts,
 Impudent sinning, witchcrafts and distrusts
 The mark of future bane shall fill our cup
 Unto the brim and make our measure up."

The same impulse which drove these writers into "meeter" and rhyme, may well have stimulated Johnson "et in celeres Iambos, Misit furentem." Possibly the fact that "Good News" was published and fell into his hands at a favorable moment may have had its influence, but the conclusion does not seem necessary that he patterned upon that work, or that even the idea of writing verses was thus suggested to his mind.

But with relation to his verses, and their merit, though it must be admitted that many of them are worse than indifferent, yet to some the merit of ingenuity and occasional poetic conception may be ascribed. We have read worse verses than these in the works of old authors whose names are honored in literature.

"From silent night, true reglster of moans,
 From saddest soul, consumed in deepest sin,
 From heart quite rent with sighs and heavy groans,
 My wailing muse her woful work begins;
 And to the world brings tunes of sad lament
 Sounding naught else but sorrow's sad relent.

"Lord, stay thy hand, thy Jacob's number's small,
 Powre out thy wrath on Antichrist's proud Thrones;
 Here thy poor flockt that on thee daily call,
 Bottle their tears, and pity their sad groans.
 Where shall we go Lord Christ? we turn to Thee,
 Heal our backslidings, forward press shall we.

"Not we, but all thy Saints the world throughout
 Shall on thee wait, thy wonders to behold;
 Thou King of Saints, the Lord in battel stout
 Increase thy armies many thousand fold—
 Oh, Nations all, his Anger seek to stay,
 That doth create him armies every day."

There is a pious tenderness in the following :—

“ What courage was in *Winthrope*, it was thine,
Shepheard's sweet sermons from thy blessing came,
Our heavenly *Hooper* did thy grace refine,
And godly *Burr* received from thee his frame ;
Philips didst thou endue with Scripture light
And *Huet* had his arguings strong and right.”

Only in the last line does this stanza fall from a high standard of excellence, and even this has a quaintness which lifts it above the commonplace.

Some other citations might be made to show that Johnson's verses are not all beneath contempt, as Mr. Poole's candid but perhaps somewhat too sweeping expressions would imply. Yet it must be confessed that he has no great claim to a place among the poets, and that his title to remembrance and respect among the students of early American history rests on other and firmer ground. Certainly it may be claimed that he wrote an important book on the early history of the Massachusetts Colony, “ the most important that was printed during the first hundred years after the settlement,” that he was an adviser on whom his associates greatly relied for counsel and suggestion, that he had a leading place among the organizers of a colonial system which was the foundation of this Commonwealth, that his influence upon legislation was marked and constant, and that he deserves to be distinctly remembered not only by scholars, but by all those who have any familiarity with the early laws of the colony or the principles which entered into its plan of government. His native modesty forbade his asserting himself publicly, except in case of grave necessity, yet he was a constant and potential influence in the

councils of the colony till his death. And, as the society have recently listened to an instructive and interesting review and analysis of the life and character of Endecott, their attention is now asked to a brief review of those of Johnson, and of his "Wonder-Working Providence," and some of the legislation in the enactment of which he rendered so important aid. The relation of the present system of legislative organization to that existing in his day may also be briefly alluded to, as illustrating the progress of free institutions and self government by the people from the early beginnings of charter organizations and privileges. As there are fewer questions of doubt in the case of Johnson than in that of Endecott, so may this review be briefer, perhaps also less discriminating and critical.

But for the publication of the "Wonder-Working Providence," the name of Johnson might be comparatively unknown, even among students. Yet the author of so valuable a work, written at that early day, must have been a man of strong intellectual quality, and we are led to look with interest for other traces of him in the history of the times in which he lived, and the transactions in which he must by virtue of that quality have had a share.

The fact that his modesty or reserve of nature forbade the "Wonder-Working Providence" to resemble in any degree an autobiography, renders it difficult to extract from it, except in the way of what may be termed internal evidence, anything which throws light on his early experience. It is certain that he was born in 1599, and that he lived at Herne Hill, in the County of Kent, but who were his parents and what was their occupation is unknown. That he was a man possessed of moderate means is evident,

from the testamentary disposition he made of his estate. That his occupation was the humble one of a joiner or carpenter is probably true. That he stated this to the agent of the "Commission for Regulating Foreign Plantations" is certain, nor is there sound reason for doubting the truth of the statement. The rule of the Commission, alarmed at the tendency to emigration which was showing itself among men of character and local influence at that time, was that no one above the rank of mechanic or serving man should depart from the kingdom without the special leave of the Commission, and though some men of note did so depart without leave, by resorting to some deception in regard to their occupation, the facts that Johnson is not known to have had any other occupation, and that he brought up sons in the business of shipwright, together with what appears the general truthfulness of his character, tend strongly to show that his statement was correct. That he came in 1630, with Winthrop, is rendered almost certain by entries on the Colonial records of the name of Edward Johnson, but especially from the internal evidence of the chapters in the "Wonder-Working Providence" which describe the voyage of the fleet, and the scenes at Southampton which preceded it. The critical reader of the 12th, 13th and 14th chapters, can hardly fail to conclude that the author was present among the scenes he describes, though he nowhere states the fact. This description of a rough sea and some of its physical consequences is probably the testimony of one who saw what he describes: "The billowes begin to grow lofty and rageing, and suddenly bringing them into the valley of death, covering them with the formidable floods, and dashing their bodies from side to side, hurling their unfixed

goods from place to place at their unwonted works. Many of these people amazed find such opposition in nature that her principles grow feeble and cannot digest her food, loathing all manner of meat, so that the vitall parts are hindered from coöperating with the Soule in spiritual duties, in so much that Men, Women and Children are in a helpless condition for present, and now is the time if ever for recounting this service they have and are about to undertake for Christ."

He came then with Winthrop in 1630, without his household however, and apparently without the definite purpose of sharing the labors and privations of those whose purpose it was to erect in the wilderness "a free temple for the worshipe of the Lord." Except that he was admitted a freeman, the records fail to show that he identified himself with the interests of the Colony in any considerable degree. He appears to have led an active life as a trader of some sort, since Gov. Winthrop says he gave him a license to go forth trading. Dudley challenged this as an abuse of discretion in the chief magistrate, inquiring by what authority he licensed Edward Johnson to "sit down at Merrimacke." That he knew the Merrimack river well is obvious from allusions in several chapters of his book. Its beauty, which he extols with various epithets of grandeur and magnificence, seems in his eyes to have been impaired by those physical peculiarities which are usnally considered to be a river's chief adornment, "a very goodly River to behold, were it not blockt up with some suddaine falls through the rocks." The keen eye of the trader saw here hindrances to the free navigation of the stream, but could not discern with prophetic vision that those "suddaine falls" would be the

sites of populous cities, and drive the myriad spindles of Lawrence and Lowell.

Thus he came, not as a religious enthusiast, but animated by the spirit of adventure and trade. He made no mark upon the early records, and returned to England in 1631, and rejoined his family. Mr. Poole, in his introduction, indulges in a pleasant speculation on the subject of how the next five years were passed. The result and conclusion of them however, was that in 1636 he arrived again in this country, bringing his family with him, to make a permanent home here, and to coöperate with zeal in the effort to build up a Puritan Commonwealth on these remote shores. The spirit of the adventurer and trader seems now to have left him. A nobler purpose animated him than to "sit down at Merrimacke," nor is it difficult to imagine him applying to himself the language he ascribes to "him at Southampton" who exclaims, "I am now prest for the service of our Lord Christ to rebuild the most glorious edifice of Mount Sion in a wilderness."

It is not material to the present purpose to take up the life of Johnson in minute detail from the time of his arrival in 1636 till his death. Its general features are, perhaps, sufficiently well known, and the student who desires fuller detail will find his opportunity in Mr. Poole's introduction, and in the references furnished in his notes. He reached no exalted position in the government of the colony, and yet it is difficult to overestimate the obligation under which he laid it, by his earnest public service in fields which afforded greater opportunity for actual usefulness, than for the attainment of great nominal distinction among men. He was the moving spirit in the establishment of

the town of Woburn. He was its town clerk from the organization of the town till his death, a period of some thirty years. In his records, though brief, will be found, in connection with the twenty-second chapter of the "Wonder-Working Providence," probably the best description of the manner in which a New England town and church was established. It is not too much to claim that the burden of the proper organization of his town and church rested mainly on his shoulders. He found the Antinomian controversy at its height on his arrival in the country. He sought a refuge from the stormy attack which Anne Hutchinson and her partizans made upon the wall of Sion, and betook himself to the wilderness for meditation, "where none but fenceless trees and echoing rocks make answer to his heart-easing mone." Probably he did not enter into a full comprehension of the merits or even grounds of the new theology, but he stood on the ancient ways, and to the utmost of his ability, and with strenuous energy, opposed any encroachment on them. Well might his friends, who looked to him for strength and guidance in the formation of opinion on religious, as on other subjects, exclaim in the language of that couplet of modern date, but ancient tone and expression,

"When Satan blewe his Antinomian blast,
We clong to Johnson as a steadfast maste."

Edward Johnson is the representative of a class of men of whom New England institutions may be said to be peculiarly the creators. The theory of town government, self-government of local communities with meetings of all the people for the discussion of public measures, is peculiar to New England and to those portions of the country where New England ideas have chiefly penetrated. No one can

read the history of the American Revolution without being impressed with the inestimable value of the town organization as the base and foundation of national success. Through these organizations it was possible for Samuel Adams to array against the aggressions of the government of England, a power, moral in its inception, physical as the necessity for the exertion of physical power was developed, which the resources of that mighty empire strove to overcome in vain. Johnson, as the representative man of the town of Woburn, whose foundations he had been mainly instrumental in laying, clothed with its continual confidence and support, exerted an influence in the councils of the colony, which ceased only with the termination of his life. It is difficult to realize, in these days of rotation in office, and amid the aspirations of almost every individual of the people for the dignity or emolument which office brings, that for thirty years this man should have been asked and allowed to hold the position of Town Clerk and Deputy to the General Court, and for about the whole period be one of the selectmen and generally the chairman. And he presents a striking illustration of how much of influence in the General Councils is given a man who for a long period of time is relied on by his immediate neighbors for the execution of important public trusts, and clothed with their authority to represent them without specific instructions, but in the exercise of his own enlightened intelligence and conscience, and under the sanction of his official oath. Not less striking is the illustration of how much of influence the local community acquires from its long representation by the same person, a fact so philosophical and reasonable that it is remarkable that, even in days of so eager individual ambitions as now obtain, its

illustration in our public councils is so infrequent. Johnson's position as a legislator in the colony illustrates farther, that it is not an indispensable condition to influence in this department of government that a man shall have a regular professional training, nor even a liberal education, nor yet any talent for public speaking, desirable as they are. There is no evidence that he possessed any of these, and yet it is probable that, by his instrumentality more than that of any other one man, the laws of the colony were set before the people intelligibly, so that the plainest yeoman and humblest freeman might know the exact requirement to which he could be held, and the penalty for its non-fulfilment. The great difficulty of accomplishing this end is familiar to the student of colonial history; the restless disquietude of the people under the summary and even capricious manner in which justice was administered in the colony in its earliest days; how the magistrates, fearing to forfeit the popular favor which might at any time be withdrawn, and that withdrawal cost them their positions, recognized the reasonableness of this disquietude, and encouraged the expectation of speedy remedy; how they kept the word of promise to the ear, but virtually broke it to the hope; how they appointed councillors of their own number to draw up a code, whose business seemed to be to find the difficulties in the way of accomplishing this, rather than to accomplish it; how Winthrop and Bellingham were (in the language of our day) made a Commission on the revision of the laws, in 1634; how in 1635 they, with Haynes and Dudley, were instructed "to make a draft of such laws as they shall judge needful;" how in 1636 they, with Vane, Collins, Peters and Shepard, were "entreathed to make a draft of laws agreeable

to the word of God ;” how Cotton submitted his code in the autumn of 1636, drawn up on the pattern of “ Moses his *Judicials* ;” how in 1637–8 the magistrates suggested the plan that the freemen of every town assemble and “ collect the heads of such necessary laws as may be suitable ” to be reported to a committee who should make a compendious abridgment of the same ; how after years more of delay, and more committees, more failures to report, and more doubts by the magistrates (for which Winthrop gives, it must be confessed, some reasonable grounds), the great question was at last decided, and in the closing days of 1641 the “ Liberties of the Massachusetts Collonie,” the first code of laws enacted in New England, was “ voted to stand in force.”

It has sometimes been supposed that the dignified declaration which stands at the head of this code, was written by Johnson, because substantially the same paragraph occurs in the Preamble of the Woburn Town Orders, adopted in 1640, which appears upon the town records in Johnson’s hand-writing. There is little probability that this is correct ; it is even doubtful whether its authorship can be attributed to Ward, the “ Simple Cobbler of Agawam,” who drew up the “ Liberties.” At all events, the fact that copies of the draft made by Ward were sent to many of the towns in 1639, might well account for the appearance of the paragraph in the Woburn Town Orders, without the assumption that Johnson furnished for the “ Liberties,” in this indirect manner, a sentence the composition of which would have done honor to a man of the highest education. As between the two, were there no outlying possibilities, it is far more

probable that Johnson borrowed from Ward, than Ward from Johnson.

Yet, as has been well observed, the "Liberties" was more in the nature of a Bill of Rights than a full code of laws for the government of a people, and that people still restless under the large discretion left in the hands of the magistrates, renewed the demand for more specific laws. The Colonial Records show how year after year their demands were put aside by a resort to the old system of appointing committees of the magistrates, who naturally, as before, preferred the amplification of their own dignity, to its limitation or abridgment. The scheme, of which the general advantage was apparently, though vaguely, admitted by all, was carried into effect by the urgent pressure and energetic service of the representatives of its people. And the Colonial Records show that, what could hardly have been the result of accident or coincidence, when Johnson was on the committee results were accomplished, and that in his absence nothing was done. Finally, the long-desired end was attained. The last committee for perfecting the laws was appointed on the 26th of May, 1647. Of this Johnson, who had been left off from the preceding one which "through straits of time and other things interveaning" accomplished nothing, was a member. They completed the work. It was put in press in the summer of 1648, and on October 27th, 1648 (Col. Rec. III., 144), an order was passed directing its sale and distribution. It was the first printed edition of the Laws of Massachusetts. Its printing and distribution among the people, seems more than to any other man to have been due to the persistent effort and energy of Johnson, whose pious satisfaction at this result

is expressed in the 5th chapter of Book III. of "Wonder-Working Providence." Thus this great principle was advocated and established. It would be interesting to pass in review the progress of legislation in the colony from this beginning; the changes made in laws and in their spirit and purport; to show how, reverting to an earlier period than that of which we have just been speaking, the system of government changed from that of charter representation to popular representation, self-government by the people; and how the swine, so potential in directing the early destinies of the Roman empire,

(“Litoreis ingens inventa sub illicibus sus
Triginta capitum foetus enixa jacebit”)

was the indirect cause of the establishment of representative government by the people; and again, as shown by Winthrop, of the establishment of two branches of the legislature. The limits of the present communication forbid this, and perhaps little could be added to the force of the statements made and views presented by Mr. Gray, in his article on the Early Laws of Massachusetts, contributed to the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1843. It is remarkable, however, that Mr. Gray should have failed to connect Johnson with the original publication of these laws.

There is one practical question suggested by Johnson's long tenure of the office of Deputy or Representative of Woburn in the General Court. How shall the Commonwealth command the services of her ablest men, or a considerable number of them, in the important relation of makers of her laws? What system of compensation can be adopted, which shall be adequate to procure the services

of such men, which shall not also make the holding of this important office a pecuniary prize to be striven for by inferior persons, as a reward for party service, and on sordid considerations only? The system of the English House of Commons makes it impossible for any but men of fortune to hold this place, and men of capacity and integrity who cannot afford to give their services, are thus excluded. The present system of compensation, which makes the most inefficient services the equal in pecuniary desert of the most effective, is in derogation of the recognized principles of business and sound financial management. Shall the theory of honorable support only obtain? Shall each community pay its own representative what compensation it pleases, and thus have the authority, if it will exercise it, to call the ablest talent to its service? And if so, shall not non-resident representation be permitted? It is not necessary to attempt a solution of any of these questions at the present moment. A glance however at this phase of Johnson's relation to his community and of the colonial practice in this respect may be suggestive.

Originally, the Deputies served the public, as do the members of the House of Commons, without charge to the treasury. In 1634-5 (Col. Rec. I., 142) it was ordered that "the charges of dyett" be paid from the Treasury. In 1636, "to ease the publick," the charge for the board of Deputies was transferred to the towns (Col. Rec. I., 183). This rule was changed within a few months (Col. Rec. I., 187). In 1638 (Col. Rec. I., 228) the charge was again laid upon the towns, though the town was subjected to no other expense than for board and lodging. The amount of 2^s 6^d was allowed for the "dyet and lodging of a deputy."

It is interesting in passing, to note the agreement made with Lieut. Phillips by the Deputies assembled in General Court in 1654, "that the Dep^{ties} of the next Court of Election shall sit in the new Court Chamber & be dyeted wth breakfast, dynner & supper, wth wine & beere betweene meales, wth fire & beds, at the rate of three shillings per day, so many as take all their dyet as aforesaid at said house, but such as only dyne & not supp, to pay eighteen pence for their dynners with wyne & beere betwixt meales; but by wine is intended a cupp each man at dynner & supp & no more." This agreement Lieut. Phillips (who kept the "Shipp Taverne") accepted, with this proviso, "that only such as had all their dyet there should have beere betweene meales & also upon extraordinary occasions he might have the use of the Great Court Chamber." (Col. Rec. III., 352-3).

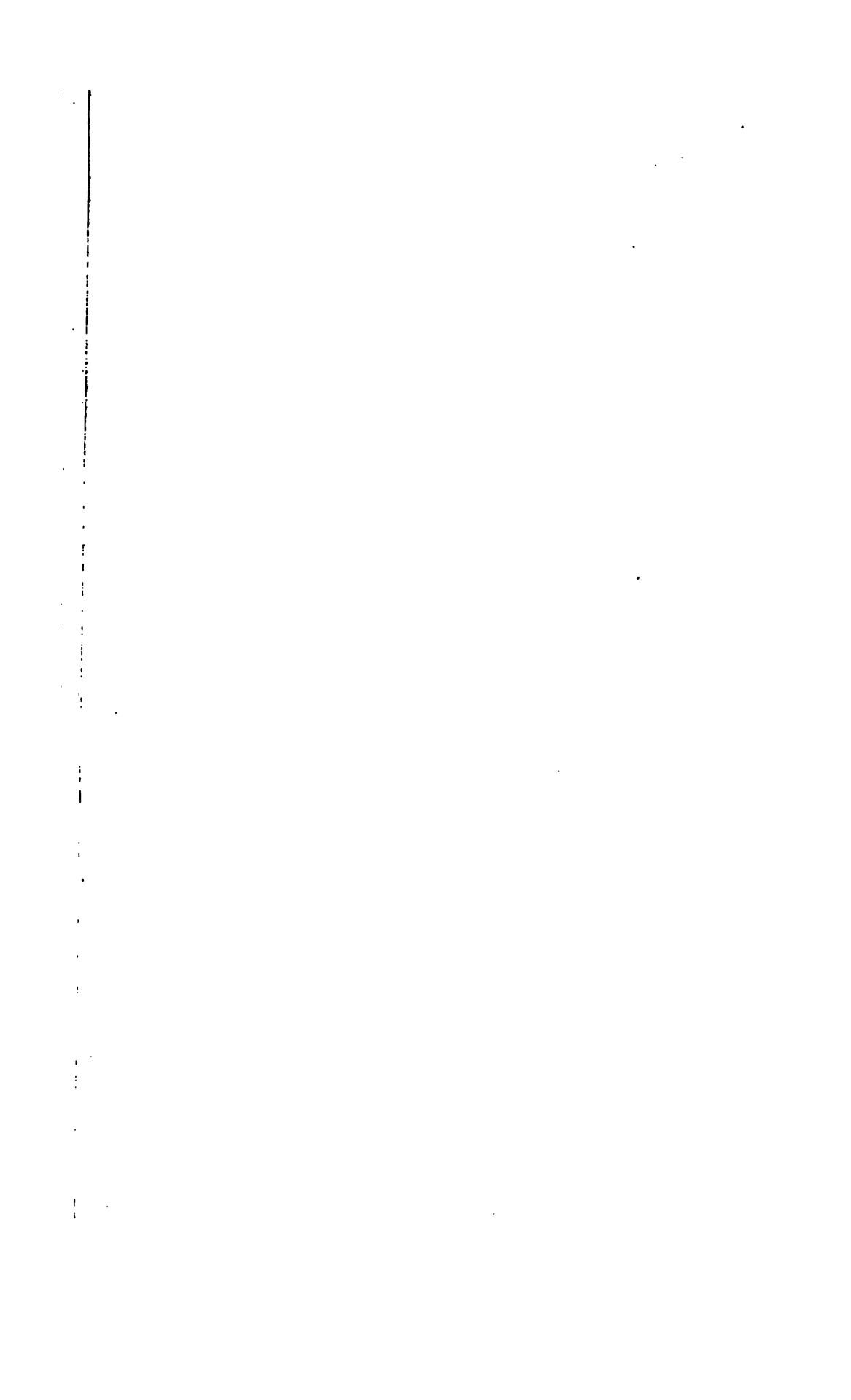
This provision seems liberal, especially at a time when the successors of that General Court are about equally divided on the question whether the sale of "wine and beere" for purposes of a beverage to any person in the Commonwealth, shall not be made a crime, and subject the seller to the penalties of fine and imprisonment.

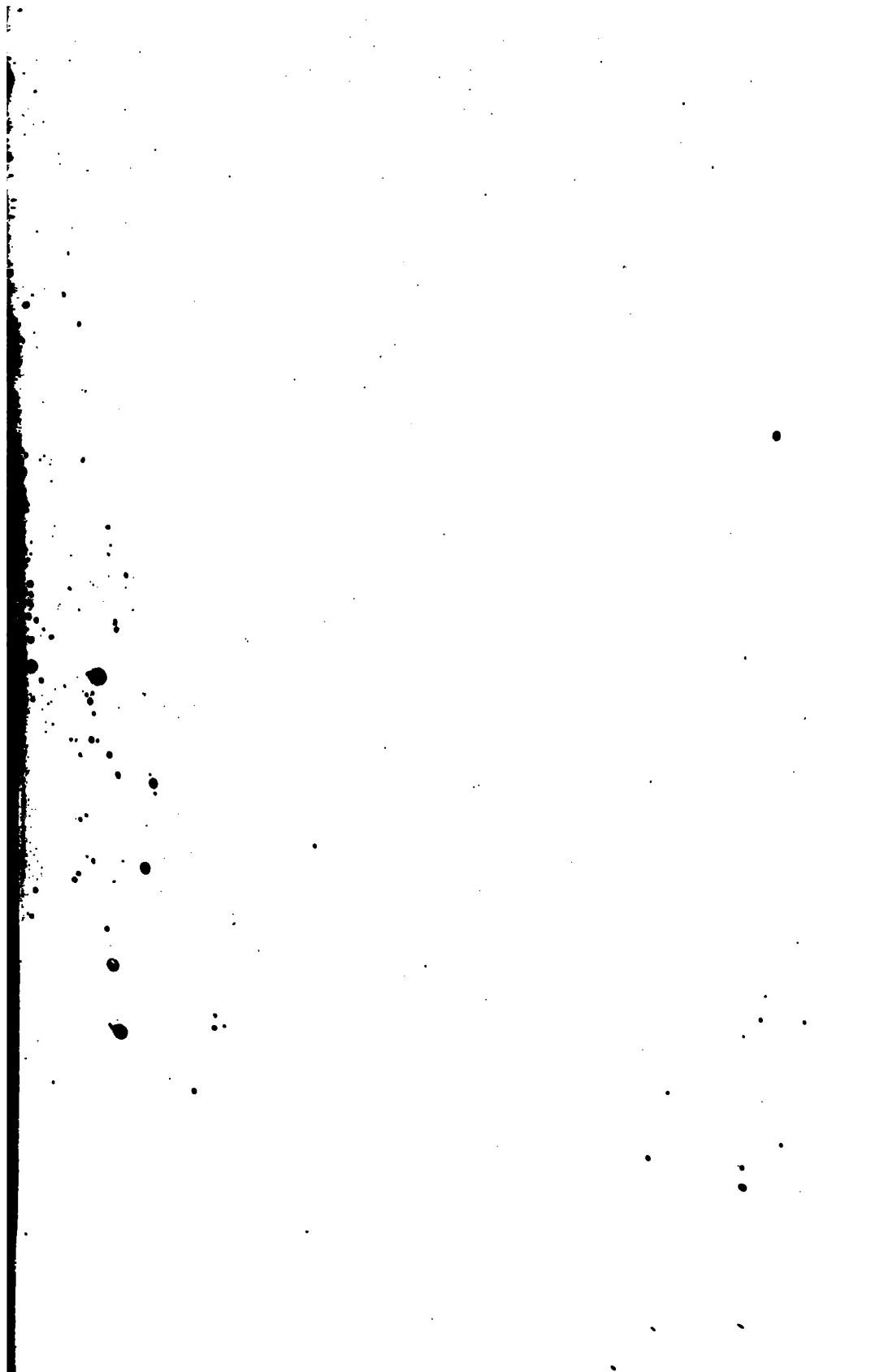
The town of Woburn however, in view of the importance of Mr. Johnson's services, in addition to the provisions for support, voted him a salary besides. The voting of this amount, though small even for that time, being sixpence per day, is sufficient to constitute a recognition of the principle which may yet be seriously considered in this Commonwealth, that communities may command the services of better representatives than would be obtainable under the

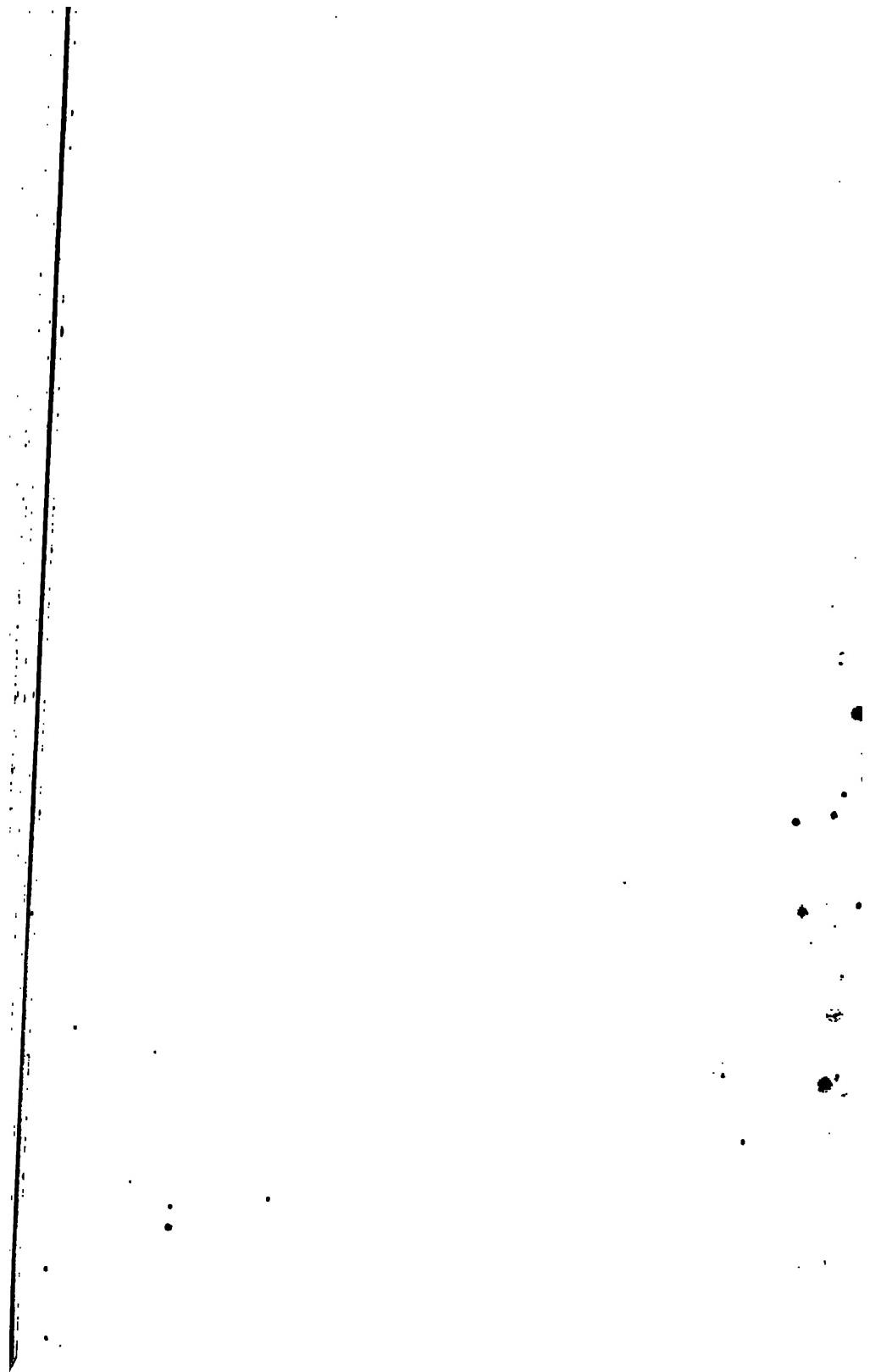
state law, by a rule of additional compensation in their discretion.

The details of the life of Johnson, minor poet of the Colony, earnest Puritan, wise and energetic legislator, faithful public officer, and honest historian, cannot be followed farther at the present time. He never fell from his high place in the regard of his townsmen and associates, and died on April 23, 1672.











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